

# Popular Mechanics

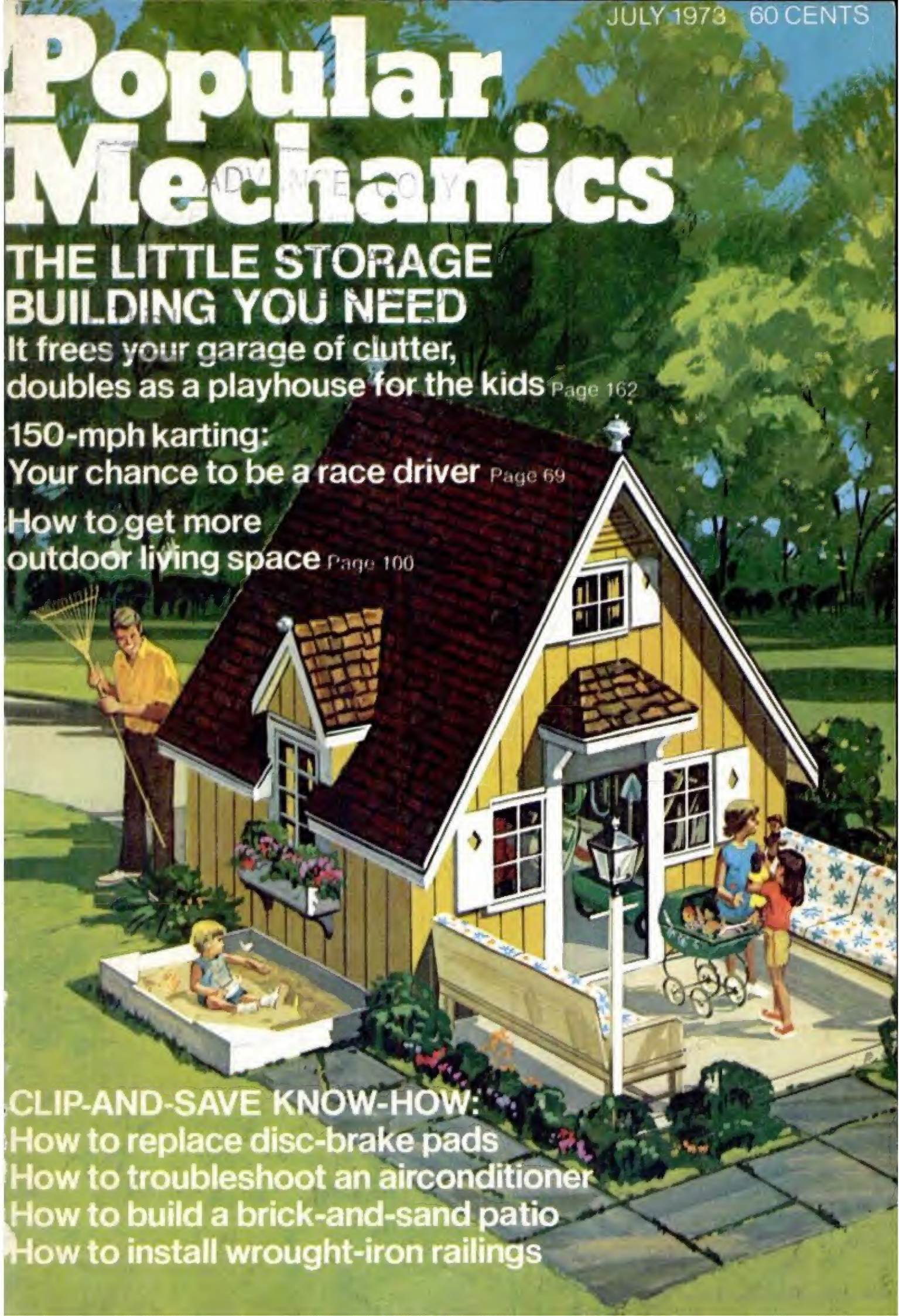
## THE LITTLE STORAGE BUILDING YOU NEED

It frees your garage of clutter, doubles as a playhouse for the kids Page 162

150-mph karting:  
Your chance to be a race driver Page 69

How to get more  
outdoor living space Page 100

CLIP-AND-SAVE KNOW-HOW:  
How to replace disc-brake pads  
How to troubleshoot an airconditioner  
How to build a brick-and-sand patio  
How to install wrought-iron railings





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# Jeep Introduces Automatic 4-Wheel Drive.

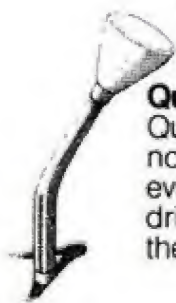
**QUADRA-TRAC™—Someday all 4-wheel drive vehicles may have a system like it... Jeep Wagoneer has it now.**



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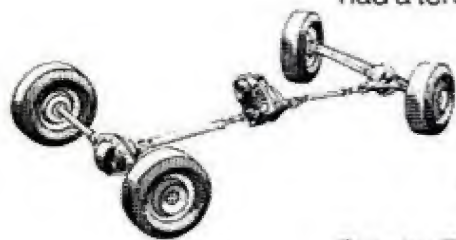
**Quadra-Trac eliminates shift lever and front locking hubs.**

Quadra-Trac is full-time automatic 4-wheel drive. There's no need to get out and lock in the front wheel hubs or even shift a lever... Quadra-Trac eliminates both. 4-wheel drive is automatically there when you need it—on or off the highway.



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Quadra-Trac is one of the most advanced 4-wheel drive systems ever developed and it's available now on Jeep Wagoneer and Jeep Truck. If you want to know more about it, see your Jeep dealer. He's the 4-wheel drive expert.

**Jeep**

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Corporation  
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Compton,  
CA 90221

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This One



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\*Every Toyo Steel Cabled Radial highway passenger car tire is guaranteed to have an original tread life of 40,000 miles with normal passenger car use. Should the tread wear out before 40,000 miles, the owner should submit his guarantee certificate and worn out tire to any Toyo dealer in the continental United States. The Toyo dealer will give credit toward a new tire, or cash refund, at his option, for an amount determined by multiplying the adjusting dealer's actual current retail price at the time of adjustment, by the percentage of mileage not run. (This is a correction of a guarantee previously advertised.)



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# Popular Mechanics

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ON THE COVER: The little storage building you need that doubles as a playhouse for kids. *Illustration by Carl Kinschert*

AS A SERVICE TO READERS, *Popular Mechanics* publishes newsworthy products, techniques and scientific and technological developments. Due to possible variance in the quality and condition of materials and workmanship, *Popular Mechanics* cannot assume responsibility for proper application of techniques or proper and safe functioning of manufactured products or reader-built projects resulting from plans published in this magazine.



# Stanley has 2 new ways to shave, file, trim.



Introducing the Surform® Shaver and the Surform Mini-File. Just what's needed in every workshop. They do great smoothing jobs—especially in tight areas—that ordinary tools can't.

One-handed Surform Shaver trims, shaves, scrapes with an easy pulling action. Great for curves, corners, tight angles. Won't "chatter" or chip edges. About \$1.79 with an extra blade.

**STANLEY**

helps you do things right

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Blade on Surform Mini-File is only ½" wide. Just-right to file grooves, smooth joints, cut notches, square corners. You'll wonder how you ever did without one. About \$2.69.





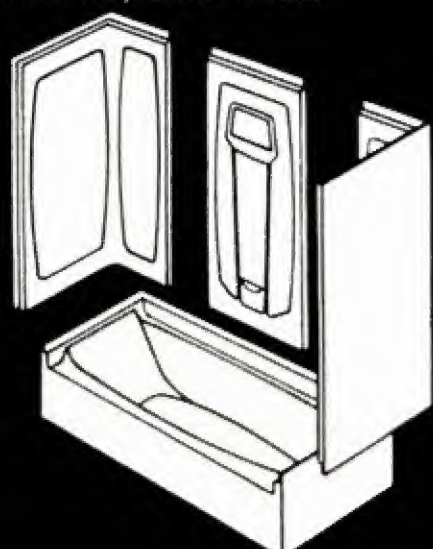
# "Until now installing a bathtub was a real problem."

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bath/shower cove, a  
remodeler's delight.

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It has helped  
to start  
many men  
and women  
on the road to  
higher pay.

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may change  
your whole  
future!

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☐ Real Estate Brokerage

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION**  
☐ Complete Training

**AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS**  
☐ Basic Training

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*A Correspondence Institution*

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hose it off!  
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with dip basket  
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River Forest, Ill. Charlotte, N. C.

## LETTERS

### TO THE EDITOR

#### Car Care Guide

Thank you for the May edition. The *Car Care Guide* is worth the price of all the issues. It has helped me in many ways.

ANDERSON, IND.

RALPH E. TOOLEY

Your *Car Care Guide* seems to be one of the most complete that I have seen. It may serve as the main part of a car-care course that I've been trying to organize to help people, including my customers, properly care for their cars.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

ROBERT R. MILLER

This type of information could well be instrumental in saving some lives on the highways this summer.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

RICHARD G. JOHNSON

The enormous amount of information in the guide boggled my mind. If nothing else, all that information proved conclusively that a person could spend his whole lifetime just performing routine maintenance and repairs on his car.

CHICAGO

KEN GREENBERG

*But what we're telling you, Ken, is how to make it a spare-time, not lifetime, job.*

Your corporation is to be commended for the fine job in publishing the *Car Care Guide*. It is informative and has much factual material.

BAY CITY DRIVING SCHOOL

RICHARD STARRY

GREEN BAY, WIS.

CLASSROOM COORDINATOR

#### More weight for giants of the road

I wish you could produce a few more articles like *Giants of the Road: Why They Cost So Much* (page 136, May *PM*) as I am sure many truckers as well as everyday people would find them extremely interesting.

GREEN BAY, WIS.

GLEN TAGGE

Depending on a number of things, normal diesel fuel weighs approximately 7.5 pounds

*(Please turn to page 10)*



# A plug for people who change their own

We figure you power buffs have lots of interests and lots of equipment to go with them. So NGK builds a plug for practically every internal combustion engine made.

Also, being mechanically hip, you appreciate quality and efficiency. So we build the most efficient, toughest plug we can. The kind you'd want to put in your own car, bike, outboard, buggy...whatever.

But all our plugs — and it takes the company computer to keep track of them — have one thing in common: a never-say-die "Heart of Copper".

Used in place of ordinary iron cores, this highly conductive copper core delivers maximum performance under all conditions.

It dissipates heat fast, cuts down plug damaging hot spots and piston-popping pre-ignition. A long-nosed insulator holds just the right amount of heat to reduce tip fouling. In hot engines or cold, under easy or hard use, NGK's fire on time, every time.

If you're a motorcycle owner, you probably know all about NGK performance. You sports car types do, too. But NGK's work just as great in utility and recreational vehicles. And they'll fire-up your hairy V-8 as quick as your one-lunger saw.

Take our tip. Screw in a set of "Heart of Copper" NGK's. They're a change for the better.

NGK, the long life, hi-performance plug.





**\$99<sup>95</sup>\***



The right tool for the right job — you know that's what counts. So if all you use a chain saw for is limbing, trimming and cutting firewood around your own



See your McCulloch dealer—He's listed in the Yellow Pages under "saws."

## (Continued from page 8)

per gallon. Thus, the fuel in each 140-gallon tank will weigh 1050 pounds, and both tanks will carry a total of 2100 pounds—vs. the 1400 pounds cited in the article (at five pounds per gallon).

INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH, FLA. W. E. ANDRUSS

I cannot believe that a firm as reputable as Kodak does not recommend using the FAN-ONLY position of the switch for cooling slide-projector bulbs (*Letters*, April PM). We use six Kodak Model 800 Carousel units daily and have ruined more bulbs than we would like to remember due to insufficient cooling.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY EDWARD HOLLAND JR.  
COLLEGE STATION, TEX.

*Kodak stopped recommending the FAN-ONLY switch for cooling bulbs several years ago. The reason: Thermal shock involved in fast cooling can damage not only the bulb but the projector's heat-absorbing glass as well. Have you ever tried a long-term test of disabling the FAN-ONLY switch on three projectors to see which three get the longest bulb life?*

Eugene Sloane's writing of recent months concerning building, lacing and truing a wheel (*The Bicycle Shop*, page 21, March *PM*, and page 40, April *PM*) has been of exceeding help and service. As an avid cyclist myself, my opinion speaks for many other enthusiasts. Although special feature authors always get the praise, I'd like to extend my personal thanks to a deserving author of informative books and a useful column.

**JIM WICKS JR.**

I've been using the Dexter Mat Cutter (photo, page 179) recommended in *Good Art at a Price You Can Afford* (page 73, Feb. *PM*) for several years—but with the blade facing forward, not backward. The cutter is easier to steer when pushed, and a close look at the housing suggests that it was so designed. (With a plywood jig, one



can also cut circular or oval mat openings which are especially effective for portraits.)  
 REGENSBURG, W. GERMANY RICHARD RUNDELL

*Harry Wicks, who wrote the article, says he won't knock a technique that works—but the instructions do say to use it the way he photographed it.*

### Wrong on two counts

The excellent exposure of our "Sure-Drive" product (NOW, page 116, May PM) was spoiled because in two instances the product was called a wrong name. Even more important, the name of the manufacturer is Stanley Hardware, New Britain, Conn.



Your error in stating it came from "Stanley Tools" is particularly unfortunate because it is the only such product the Hardware Div. has produced.

THE STANLEY WORKS E. C. BENFIELD, MGR.  
 NEW BRITAIN, CONN. PUBLIC INFORMATION

### Do security checks ruin film?

The lab that develops my film recently told me that one roll was double-exposed. Could the new airport X-ray security devices possibly have caused this?

SCITUATE, MASS. M. McCALLUM

*According to Kodak, the X-ray equipment used by most major airlines uses high-speed, high-voltage X-ray pulses that won't affect film, even if you change planes and go through airport security checks several times. But some of the smaller airlines use less expensive equipment that will affect it.*

*Overexposure and X-rays have different*

*(Please turn to page 12)*

# Power to go



## McCulloch Portable Generators

Here's electric power where you need it, when you need it — on camping trips, outdoor building projects, for standby power during storms, blackouts and other power emergencies. McCulloch's super lightweight generators are small enough to fit in the back of your car. And the unique design, with only one moving part, means they're the most reliable you can buy. Three sizes, all with our Double Warranty.



H-1500. 1,500 watt capacity. 68 lbs.  
 115 volts. 60 cycles. **\$199.95\***  
 Only

H-2000. 2,000 watt capacity. 83 lbs.  
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H-3000. 3,000 watt capacity. 129 lbs.  
 115 or 230 volts. 60 cycles. **\$399.95\***

\*Manufacturer's suggested list price. Slightly higher in Alaska and Canada.

## McCulloch

McCulloch Corporation  
 6101 West Century Boulevard  
 Los Angeles, California 90045

See your McCulloch dealer—He's listed in the Yellow Pages under "saws."



## LETTERS

(Continued from page 11)

*effects on the film. Overexposed negatives look blacker than normal ones, but their edges are as clear as the edges of normally exposed film. X-ray fog darkens the entire film, including the edges.*

### Back issues are a help

As a nonmechanic who has started working on my own car, I have found the back issues of PM better than any manuals.

SMYRNA, GA.

W. F. PITTMAN

### Westinghouse kit will help you

I have just read the procedure for replacing the heater element or heater coil in Westinghouse electric dryers in *Appliance Clinic* (page 44, Jan. PM).

The problem is familiar to servicemen; however, the average do-it-yourselfer may overlook procedures and techniques, resulting in short life for the repairs.

Genuine Westinghouse renewal part heat-

ing coils include a set of instructions along with mounting nuts, washers and terminal studs. The new parts supplied in our coil kits are intended to replace all the old ones. Our present field replacement coil kit will repair all Westinghouse dryers manufactured since 1962.

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORP. D. E. KREIS  
MANSFIELD, OHIO LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT  
SERVICE ENGINEER

### Pickup in the classroom

There's some additional information I need beyond that in *Recorders by the Pocketful* (page 80, April PM). My grandson feels the need for a recorder during lectures in a college classroom when the instructor is sometimes 50 feet away. Which mini would have a built-in microphone with the greatest receiving ability?

HAMLET, IND.

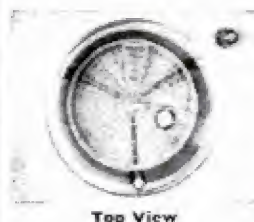
ELMER A. ASZMAN

*Almost any microphone, whether separate or built into a recorder, will pick up more noise than anything else when it's 50 feet from a classroom instructor.* ★ ★ ★

# NEW CORONET BUILT-IN DISHWASHER WASHES AND DRIES DISHES in 5 minutes

Now, for the first time after eight successful years of sales exclusively to the Builder/Developer, the Coronet Built-In Dishwasher is being offered directly to you, the "Do-It-Yourselfer"! A totally unique concept, the CORONET operates on water line pressure only. Using automatic dishwashing detergent, it requires only a two minute wash. The drying is accomplished in three minutes by heat retained in the dishes from the hot water wash. There are no electric motors, pumps, or electrical connections required. Only two plumbing

connections are necessary, one to the valve and one to the drain. Complete detailed installation instructions are provided with each unit along with a countertop cut-out template. A real savings "plus", the CORONET is designed to provide maintenance free operation over extended use, as there are only two moving parts. Lids in decorator colors of Pastel Yellow, Pastel Avocado, and Harvest Gold are optional at \$1.50 each. Standard Lid color is appliance white. Also available at \$1.50 each is a wood-grained vinyl lid insert.



Top View



Minimum Lost Storage



Ideal in Corner



Order now at the Special Price of \$93.00, freight paid in Continental U. S. A. (Residents of Missouri add 4% Sales Tax.)

Send check or money order to:

Coronet Imperial Corporation  
6755 Southwest Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63143\*

\*Write for descriptive brochure



**WHATEVER YOUR PLANS,  
THEY PROBABLY DON'T INCLUDE  
TIRE TROUBLE.**



Steel Radial 500—we think you'll say "They're the best tires I've ever owned". • A 40,000 mile radial (that's 3 or 4 years of average driving). • Two belts of brass plated, high tensile steel cord under the tread. • Better handling and steering than any conventional tire we have on the road today. • A computer designed quiet running tread. • And six ways to charge it at most Firestone Dealers and Stores.



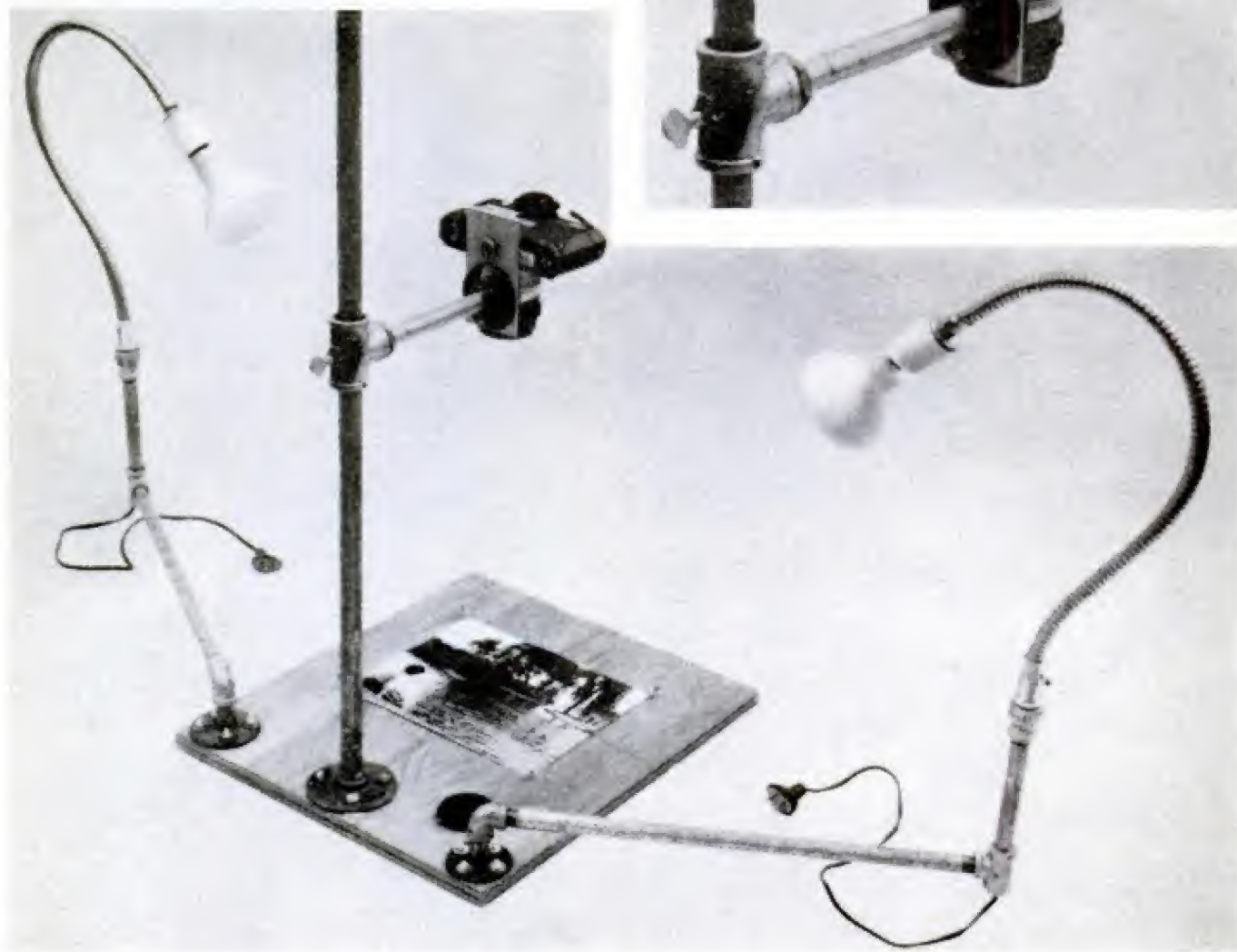
**Let Firestone put the 40,000 mile Steel Radial 500  
between you and tire trouble.**

**Firestone**  
The people tire people



# PHOTO HINTS

## FROM READERS



### Simple copy stand

Unable to find a satisfactory copy stand at a reasonable price, I built my own. Besides copy work, it also handles movie titling and many small, tabletop photo jobs. It can be used in either vertical or horizontal position, and will support cameras up to 4x5.

Construction is fairly obvious, requiring only standard hardware, plumbing and electrical items, and no unusual tools.

The baseboard is  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. plywood, countersunk, counterbored or raised on feet to provide clearance for the bolt heads that hold the pipe flanges.

The camera arm is  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. pipe mounted with an adapter to a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. pipe tee that slides up and down a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. upright. Drill and tap the tee to take a thumbscrew, as

seen above, to lock the camera in position.

At the other end of the arm, the camera is mounted by a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 thumbscrew or knurled screw to a platform of  $\frac{1}{8}$  or  $\frac{3}{16}$ -in. aluminum, fastened to a  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. pipe flange by two countersunk  $\frac{3}{16}$ -in. machine screws. (Make sure the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 screw protrudes enough to grip the camera's tripod socket firmly, but not enough to push out the top of the socket.)

Lamp arms use  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. pipe and fittings, with goosenecks (from an electrical supply house) attached with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -to- $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. pipe reducer, and the lamps mounted in ceramic sockets.

Used pipe and fittings can be utilized, at a considerable savings.

Assembly takes about an hour, and the stand is easily dismantled for storage.

—Warner G. Tilsher, Rosemead, Calif.





### Decorate your wall with photos

Want to display your prize photos dramatically? Decorate your wall with a group of them in these colorful frames. They're easy to make and easy to vary in appear-

ance to obtain a lively, eye-catching effect.

The basis for each frame is a piece of clear, 1/8-in. Plexiglas, cut exactly to match the size of each picture. The frame sides are made from 1/8-in. colored Plexiglas strips, each 1/4 in. longer than the side of the picture it will mount against. Miter the edges of each strip 45°, and temporarily assemble the complete frame—clear cover and all four edge strips—with masking tape. Then carefully cement with a syringe filled with solvent cement. When the cement has dried, insert the picture and a cardboard backing sheet. To hold the photo in place, cement small Plexiglas retaining tabs behind the cardboard. Cement the tabs lightly, so you can knock them out to change the picture.

When you've finished building all the frames you need, lay them on the floor and cement them together in any desired pattern. Lively staggered patterns, like the one at upper left, are easy to make and attractive, and you can add a great deal of variety by varying the color and depth of the frame edges, and mounting the photos at different depths within the frames.

—Dwayne L. Hardin, Federal Way, Wash.



## Minolta helps you understand courage.

Smile at the challenges of everyday life. All it takes is a sense of humor and a responsive camera to see the pictures that are everywhere.

If you have the insight, a Minolta SR-T could be the camera. This is a 35mm reflex you'll be comfortable with from the moment you pick it up. It lets you concentrate on the picture, because the viewfinder shows all the information needed for correct exposure and focusing. You never have to look away from the finder to adjust a Minolta SR-T, so you're ready to catch the one photograph that could never be taken again.

Next time you see the funny side of life, be ready with a Minolta SR-T. For more information, visit your photo dealer or write Minolta Corp., 200 Park Ave. So., N.Y., N.Y. 10003. In Canada: Anglophoto Ltd., P.Q.


**Minolta SR-T 101/Minolta SR-T 102**











# You can go pretty far. With no college. And no connections.

## (A TRUE STORY)

If you want the good things in life, you don't have to hassle your way through four years of college.

Gary Burnash didn't. (College just wasn't his bag.) Yet, Gary is a real success in every sense of the word.

Wonderful family. Nice home in the suburbs of Detroit with a swimming pool the kids just love. A hunting lodge about 200 miles deep into the Michigan woods. With his own snowmobile to take him to some of the best hunting spots a man can get to.

Gary's income has more than tripled in the last six years. And anytime he wants a raise, he just takes it. Because, now he's half owner of the Sheler Corporation, a machine tool company that makes prototype parts for the automobile industry.

Gary got to the top of that company in just six years (at age 34). But he didn't do it by flashing a college diploma. Or being related to the owner.

As soon as he got his job at Sheler, he also signed up for the ICS course in Mechanical Engineering. He studied at home, in spare time. And when the boss heard about it, he gave Gary some design work to do at home. The rest is history.

### **The right combination for success**

Gary Burnash has the right combination for success. He's in a growing field. And he has good training for it. You could, too.

Especially if you're interested in one of the fast-growing careers where ICS concen-

trates its training. Like Electrician. Engineering. Automotive Mechanic. TV Repair & Servicing. Drafting. Air Conditioning. (Check your choice on attached card.)

### **Ideal way to learn**

As an ICS student, you study at home, on your own schedule. You waste no time traveling to and from class. And you never have to miss a paycheck.

But you're never alone. Skilled instructors are always ready to help you.

If you ever have any doubts or problems or just want to talk to your instructor, you can even call ICS from anywhere, at any hour. Toll-free.

### **ICS training works**

More than 8,500,000 men and women have turned to ICS for career training in the past 80 years.

Government agencies, unions and some of America's top corporations (including Ford, U.S. Steel, Mobil, Alcoa, Pan Am, GE, Motorola and RCA) use ICS courses in their own training programs.

### **Free demonstration lesson**

If you want your job to give you more (more money, more day-to-day satisfaction, more future) send for our career guide booklets and free demonstration lesson.

Remember, it's your life. You might as well make the most of it.

### **ICS**

*We'll show you a better way to earn a living.*

*Gray Burnash and his "crew." Shopping for a new boat to enjoy on nearby Lake Huron. (Photograph by Frank Cowan)*



## “King of the Surf”



**Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined  
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.**



# How good it is

Winston tastes good,  
when a cigarette should.



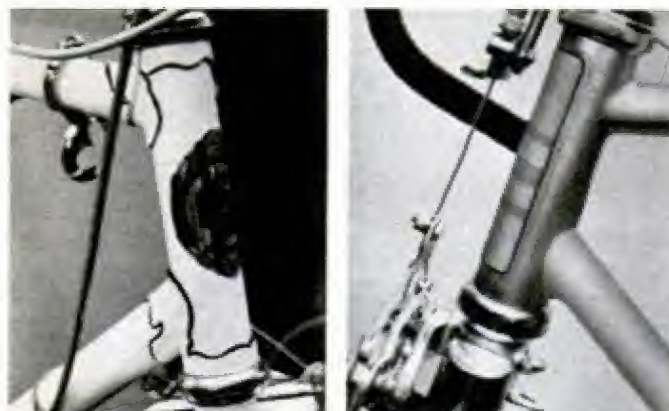
©1973 R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.  
BOX: 20 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine, PACK: 20 mg. "tar", 1.4 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette, FTC Report FEB. '73.



## THE BICYCLE SHOP

BY EUGENE A. SLOANE

**T**here's a boom on in bike sales in the United States, and with the boom has come a great increase in the number of bicycles imported into this country. The poor quality of some of the bicycles is masked by the cosmetic treatment of fancy paint jobs, so when it comes to buying a bike it pays to know how to tell a clunker from a well-made machine. Here is how to select a bicycle that will give you good value for the money.



**1. Check frame joints.** Look for a lugged frame rather than a frame in which tubes are simply stuck into each other and welded. Photo at left shows a fine, lugged frame. Photo at right shows a weaker, unlugged frame. Exceptions: Schwinn and DBS Oglaend unlugged-frame bikes have frame members that are reinforced with an extra bead at the weld in the joints.

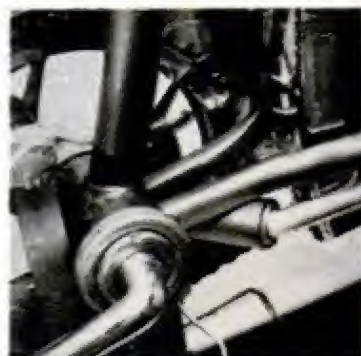
**2. Heft the bike.** The lighter the bike, the more it costs. A \$250-and-up bicycle should weigh no more than 24 pounds. A \$100 10-speed will weigh up to 40 pounds. Look for a 10-speed weighing from 24 to 30 pounds at the most. Any heavier and you'll be carrying around extra iron that will weigh you down. The bike above, left, weighs 24 pounds, costs \$350.

**3. The brakes.** Side-pull brakes are not as good as center-pull (top of next column). Exceptions: Shimano and Campagnolo side-pulls, which are cam-actuated and expensive. Better bikes will have center-pulls, and the very best, either Shimano or Campagnolo side-pulls. Good center-pull brand names are Mafac,



Dia-Compe, Universal, Balilla and Weinmann. Squeeze the brake levers. The brakes should meet the rim flats firmly when levers are depressed no more than one inch, so that both the wheels are locked.

**4. Check the parts.** A better bike will have aluminum rims, hubs and cranks. A cheaper bike will have steel components. The very best machines are equipped with aluminum-alloy cotterless cranks and chainwheels, like those in the top photo, right. The cheaper bikes have steel cotted cranks or one-piece steel cranks, like that in the lower photo.



**5. Wheel trueness.** Spin wheels, and with a finger on the brake block, check wheels for lateral (side to side) and concentric (roundness) trueness. Wheels

*(Please turn to page 24)*



# Schick Super II

# against I.



**How double is a double edge razor, really?**

There's never more than one edge working for you. While the other one's out there goofing off.

Now compare with the Schick Super II:  
Both edges are on your side. Always working together.

The first edge shaves you close like your double edge now. The second edge shaves you closer.

There's really no comparison.  
It's two against one.  
Unfair maybe. But that's life.

**Schick<sup>Super II</sup>**  
Two Bladed Razor



**The Schick Super II. Put both edges on your side.**

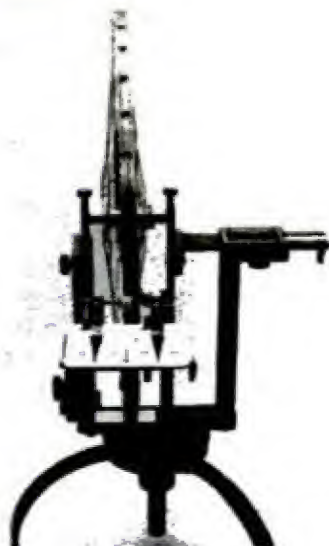
©Schick Safety Razor Co., Div. Warner-Lambert Co.

Manufactured in the U.S.A.



## THE BICYCLE SHOP

(Continued from page 22)



should show little or no untrueness; don't accept a bike with wheels more than  $\frac{1}{32}$ -in. out of true in either dimension. Photo shows a wheel-truing machine with rim true laterally and concentrically.



wheel following in the track of the front wheel. With a ruler, make sure the wheels are centered between the fork blades and the rear seat stays. Ride the bike "hands off" the handlebars—or have an experienced cyclist do so. The bike should ride true and not pull to one side.



**6. Chainwheel.** Slip the chain off the chainwheel (the big front gear). Spin the chainwheel and sight down it to check for trueness (a straightedge may help, as shown in the photo). There should be no wavy spots. Spin the chainwheel again. It should turn freely, without evidence of binding. Grasp the pedals in either hand and push the pedals and cranks from side to side to check for sideplay; there should be none.

**7. Hubs.** Remove both wheels. Spin the axle between thumb and forefinger. The axle should turn freely without a feeling of tightness or roughness. Holding both axles, twist them up and down to check for sideplay; there should be none.

**8. Frame alignment.** If possible, ride the bike on a wet street, holding the front wheel straight and coasting. Both wheels should track true, with the rear

**9. Inspect tires.** Inflate 27 x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in. and 27 x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. tires to 90 pounds (90 p.s.i.) Inspect the tires carefully for bubbles and other defects in the tread and, particularly on tubulars, the sidewalls. Make sure tubular tires are glued firmly onto rims by trying to peel the tire off. On clinchers, check sidewall where it meets the rim, at the valve particularly, to make sure the tire bead is seated into the wheel "well" and is not bulging outward.

**10. Make sure the bicycle fits you.** Straddle the top tube with both feet on the ground. There should be  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1-in. clearance between you and the top tube. More than 1-in. clearance means the bike is too small, and you would have to have the seat awkwardly high. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. clearance means the bike is too big and you could be hurt if on a quick stop you had to dismount and came into hard contact with top tube.

**11. Where to buy.** This should, perhaps, have been first. I really do recommend that you buy a bicycle only in a bicycle store, preferably one that sells and services only bicycles. An exception would be bike shops that cater to ski trade in the off-season. The reason: A bicycle comes to a retailer requiring adjustment of brakes, wheel alignment, hub and bottom bracket cones (usually), saddle height and a dozen other little things. If adjustment is not done, the bicycle can be hard to pedal or downright unsafe.

A look at the ads run by big department stores and discount chain stores tells you how little these outlets know about bicycles, the type of bicycle they are likely to have available (flimsy, cheap construction, for the most part) and how poorly an untrained clerk may assemble your bike for you. Some ads read "calibrated center-pull brakes." There's no such thing; they are caliper brakes. One ad I saw stated that a bicycle had a "racing-type kickstand." A racing cyclist would never have any kind of kickstand; even the better bicycles do not have kickstands. Kickstands are heavy and permit a strong wind or passerby to knock the bicycle down. I think they're useless.

It's much safer to buy from a man who makes his living repairing and adjusting bikes.

If you follow these steps, you'll have a reasonable chance of buying a bike that will fit you and a machine that's properly adjusted before it leaves the store. ★★★





Impala at Crater Mountains, Arizona.

There's so much to see, make sure you're around to see it. Buckle up.

## Every time we try to give you one reason why Impala is a great value, we end up with a dozen.

**1** Improved front bumper system retracts and returns on minor impact to help cushion shock.

**2** Impala's traditionally high resale value is something you'll appreciate at trade-in.

**3** Improved power ventilation keeps outside air coming in even when you're stopped.

**4** Sturdy, protective side-guard beams in every door.

**5** Variable-ratio power steering that gives good road feel, turns easily and quickly for parking.

**6** Power brake system. Up front, fade-resistant discs. On rear wheels, finned drums.

**7** Three-range Turbo Hydramatic. One of the world's finest automatic transmissions.

**8** Full foam seats give you the kind of comfort usually associated with cars priced higher than Impala.

**9** Double-panel steel roof serves two purposes: adds strength and helps reduce noise.

**10** Full Coil suspension, springs computer-selected to suit weight of car and equipment selected.

**11** Standard V8 engine that provides big-car performance with advanced emission controls.

**12** 3-point seat and shoulder belt system features single buckle, reminder light and buzzer.

*Impala. Truly, the great American value. When you buy it. And when you sell it.*

**Chevrolet. Building a better way to see the U.S.A.**

**Chevrolet**



# USE IT ALL AS YOU GET READY FOR A NEW CAREER...

## **\$1,500.00 worth of two-way radio electronic communications equipment!**

Bell & Howell Schools announces a new learn-at-home program that gives you "hands on" experience with commercial-grade equipment—as you prepare for a business of your own in two-way radio electronic communications servicing.

You need "hands on" experience with a real, commercial-band FM transceiver and actual commercial-grade test equipment—to take full advantage of growing opportunities in electronic communications.

Two-way radio communications is a healthy growth area in electronics. And it's lucrative. Almost two million commercial two-way radio systems now serve as vital communications links for trucks, planes, boats and taxis. And the FCC requires each system to have its equipment serviced regularly by a licensed technician. That's where you come in. But you need career-oriented training—plus your FCC license.

Knowing how to put an amateur radio kit together won't help when you're "on the job"—servicing two-way radio systems for aircraft or advising trucking companies about their land-mobile communications system. For that, you need "hands on" experience with the real thing. This unique new Bell & Howell Schools learn-at-home program gives you just that. You can work with the equipment by attending one of our special "help sessions" or by dropping by one of the Bell & Howell resident schools. If neither of these plans



is convenient, you can have the equipment shipped to your home in return for a \$100 deposit, which is refundable when you return the equipment.

Find out more about this exciting new Bell & Howell Schools program. There's no obligation.

**For free facts, mail attached card today!**



# Let Bell & Howell Schools help you get ready for an exciting career or business of your own in two-way radio electronic communications!

Bell & Howell Schools has helped thousands of people prepare for careers—and businesses of their own—in electronics. You can have absolute confidence in the thorough training you get.

Expert instructors at Bell & Howell Schools plan each program to answer a single question: "What qualifications will you need to take advantage of *actual career opportunities* in electronics?" They then build each program to give you those exact qualifications.

To get ready for a business of your own in two-way radio, you need: 1) career-oriented training; 2) FCC License; 3) "hands on" experience with commercial-grade equipment. Bell & Howell Schools now offers this new at-home training program that gives you all three. (See FCC License Warranty on attached card.)

## JUST LOOK AT ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU'LL WORK WITH DURING YOUR TRAINING PROGRAM WITH BELL & HOWELL SCHOOLS!

**Commercial-Band FM Transceiver** . . . exactly the kind of two-way radio you'll service throughout your career.

### **Deviation Meter**

. . . model favored by many working technicians to check modulation of transmitted signal.

### **Frequency Meter** . . .

highly sensitive instrument used to check signal frequency within precise tolerances established by government standards.

### **Power Output Meter** . . . meter

used almost universally by trained and licensed technicians to check power output—or wattage—of signal.

### **Alignment Generator**

. . . a custom-designed unit you use to generate test signals for transceiver alignment.



## FCC REGULATIONS GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

The Federal Communications Commission requires that all commercial two-way communications systems be checked and serviced by a licensed technician at regular intervals.

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**Help Sessions** Scheduled regularly every few Saturdays at the Bell & Howell Schools and in many other cities throughout the U.S. and Canada. Top instructors give you personal help and guidance.

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To make sure you get practical experience with instruments used daily by professionals, we've integrated into your program three precision instruments you assemble yourself and keep:

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**Oscilloscope** Offers bright, sharp screen images, 3-way jacks for leads, plugs.

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## CAR CLINIC

BY MORT SCHULTZ

### Locked out

*I own a 1970 Plymouth Duster. The left-inside door lock button has come loose and no longer actuates the lock when pressed down. Can this be repaired without removing the inside door trim and panel?—Vernon W. Jones, Harrisonville, Mo.*

No. The panel and trim have to come off. This problem, which others have experienced, occurs when a small plastic clip on the end of the linkage rod wears away or comes loose. This clip has to be replaced and the only way to get to it is you know how!

### Schnozzola troubleshooting

*I had a Ford airconditioner installed in my 1971 Ford pickup. Every now and then I hear something that sounds like water hitting a hot skillet, and then fumes that make me ill permeate the vehicle and I have to turn the airconditioner off. Mechanics look at me as if I'm nuts—"freon is odorless," they tell me. Maybe so, but something is making me and others who ride in the truck sick. I'm scared to death to use the airconditioner. Please help. It's hot here.—Ms. L. E. Hall, Tecopa, Calif.*

The mechanics are correct. Freon is odorless. What I think is happening, though, is that condensation from the evaporator drain hose is hitting the hot exhaust pipe, producing fumes. I suggest you have the drain hose rerouted. And, just to be sure, have an airconditioner specialist check your system for leaks.

### Heavy problem

*My 1972 Buick has had a vibration from the day I bought it that can be felt in the seat, armrests, floor, accelerator pedal and steering wheel. It is discernible below 20 mph, quite heavy at about 30 mph and most pronounced at 60 mph and above. Tires have been dynamically balanced. The driveshaft*

*is clean. This is hard to take from a car that retails for \$7100. Do you know if this is a repetitive complaint, and can you help with some timely ideas?—Milton C. Dubay, Mount Clemens, Mich.*

I have seen similar cases in which the tires were the center of trouble. They had heavy spots no amount of balancing could eliminate. The problem isn't confined to a particular brand. I suggest you tell the dealer you want five different tires. If the complaint has been on record since you bought the car, Buick should resolve this at no cost to you. Buick has told me to tell you that if you have no luck with your dealer, you should contact your Buick zone customer service department. Check your owner's manual for its location.

### Tough shifting

*The four-speed transmission of my 1972 Vega GT is very difficult to shift into first or second gear when the transmission is cool and the engine is running. It is easier first to shift into third or fourth gear, and then into first or second. The shift into first becomes easier when the transmission warms up, but still isn't as it should be. I've taken the car to two different Chevrolet dealers, and both say: "You've got the same problem as a million other Vega owners. We have no cure." Any suggestions?—John W. McCarter, Gardner, Kans.*

Check the clutch-release bearing adjustment. With engine running at normal idle speed, depress clutch for three to five seconds until it stops spinning. Shift into Reverse. If the gears clash, the clutch isn't releasing completely and should be adjusted as explained in the 1971-72 Vega shop manual, page 7-2. It may also prove beneficial to drain the lubricant from the transmission and put in SAE 80 GL-5 lube. Do not use SAE 80-90 or 90 GL-5.

Chevrolet contends that manual transmissions are generally more difficult to shift

*(Please turn to page 32)*



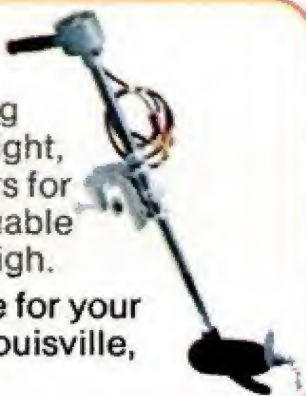


## Spend a milder moment with Raleigh.

A special treatment softens the tobaccos  
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Good fishing ahead when  
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Phantom M-3 electric fishing  
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free B&W coupons, the valuable  
extra on every pack of Raleigh.

To see over 1000 gifts, write for your  
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Filter Kings, 16 mg. "tar," 1.2 mg. nicotine; Longs, 18 mg. "tar,"  
1.3 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette, FTC Report February '73

**Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined  
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.**

Manufactured by Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., Louisville, KY



## CAR CLINIC

*(Continued from page 30)*

when cold and adds, "The Vega transmissions are no exception."

---

### Nesting birds

*I like my 1972 Oldsmobile 88 okay, but it's driving me to the nuthouse because of a constant chirp coming from the parking brake. I've tried oil, silicone and bracing the pedal back with a block of wood. Only driving with my foot on the pedal seems to help. What can I do?—Larry Nuckols, Ecorse, Mich.*

If this is like other Oldsmobiles, the noise is being caused by the parking brake cables rubbing against the underbody between guide and frame. By putting your foot on the pedal, you apply tension to the cables, moving them away from the underbody. Coat the cable with water-resistant grease. If this doesn't silence your canary, slit a length of windshield-washer hose and tape it around cable at the point of contact.

Another possibility is that the guide is rubbing on the crossbar. File top and bottom of the slot in the crossbar with a rattail file to get rid of the contact points.

---

### Recall modification fails

*I own a 1971 Plymouth Cricket in which the steering mechanism was replaced recently as a result of the manufacturer's recall program. Since this modification, I have experienced occasional momentary losses of steering on left turns and also while driving on a straight road. My dealer is willing to make any necessary corrections, but can't locate the trouble. Can you help?—John Bergeron, Dayton, Ohio.*

To my knowledge, the modification has been successful. Yours is the first indication I've had to the contrary. I can only imagine that you got a bad rack and pinion, but ask the dealer to check the job. It may need a rack adjustment. If the work must be done again, the latest engineered rack and pinion is part No. 71266734.

---

## Ping Pong, Swedish style

*I would like your advice about the pinging problem with a 1970 Volvo station wagon that mechanics have failed to solve. One says it's caused by using low octane fuel, but I use only premium, so he recommended that I switch brands. I did—the problem remains. Another said it was my carburetor, so he cleaned and adjusted it and checked sparkplugs and fuel pump. The problem prevails. Why?—Vincente B. Untalan, Dover, Del.*

Let's start from the beginning. You must use premium fuel in this engine. Ignition timing, carburetor adjustment and valve adjustment must be right on the money. Ignition timing is 10° BTDC. When adjusting it, the vacuum line must be disconnected and plugged. Now, if pinging remains and you have airconditioning in the vehicle, check to see if the pulleys are in correct position. If yours is one of the Volvos with airconditioning that has had drive pulleys improperly installed or mismarked, ignition timing will be way off. Check to see that the top-dead-center mark is lined up with the marker when No. 1 piston is at top dead center. Finally, realize that a buildup of carbon in the engine will cause higher compression and pinging. Until the situation is corrected, use a light foot on the accelerator: you can usually feel the point at which pinging starts.

---

## SERVICE TIPS

□ **Dodge tells us** that tread noise from radial-ply tires in some 1973 models is caused by "mold flash" across the tread that's trapping air in the grooves. Fix it by inspecting tires and breaking the flash wherever it's found with scissors or a screwdriver. The flash need not be removed—only broken so that air can pass freely.

□ **Oldsmobile is on record** as opposing the use of commercially available carburetor air cleaner devices that open the air cleaner to additional air. Manufacturers of these devices claim that benefits include better gas mileage and quicker starts. Oldsmobile says, "The carburetor is designed for maximum efficiency of the fuel and emissions systems, and no add-ons should be used." ★★ ★

---

**GOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR CAR?** Ask Mort about it. Send your question to Car Clinic, Popular Mechanics, 224 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. Letters cannot be answered individually, but problems of general interest will be published in the column.



# Ride the heavy-duty shock that doesn't have a heavy price.

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V8, 10,000-pound GVW, power steering, automatic transmission, and Electronic Ignition System. What happens when imagination takes over? The same old thing. Progress.

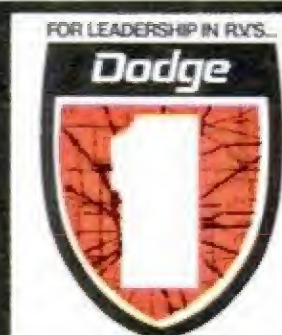


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## SCIENCE WORLDWIDE

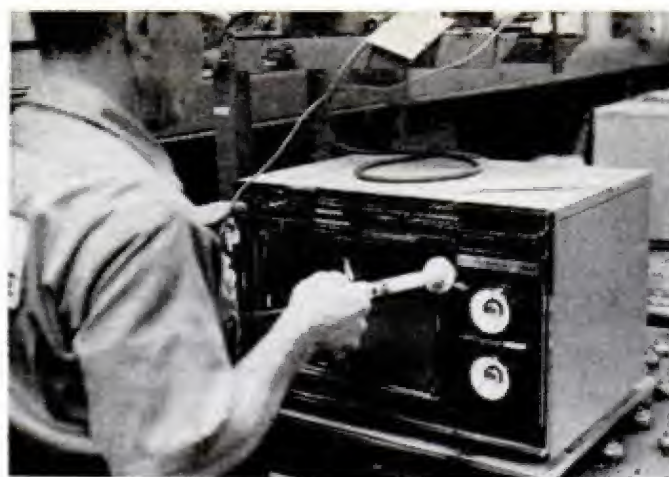
### Radar detects space hazard

Saturn's famous rings appear to be composed of solid chunks—a yard or more in diameter—rather than of ice crystals, dust or gas. That's the finding of Jet Propulsion Laboratory astronomers after history's first successful radar probe of the big planet. They used NASA's 210-foot dish in the Mojave Desert to beam signals on a round-trip of 1.5 billion miles, which took 2 hours and 15 minutes to complete. The bounce-back signals indicated solid material with rough, jagged surfaces. The rings, say the scientists, "must be considered an extreme hazard to spacecraft."



### Perfect patient for student dentists

New aid in training dentists and dental assistants is a rubber and plastic head that does everything but bleed and groan. Plastic skin texture is like the real thing, the jaws are fitted with replaceable teeth that can be pulled or drilled, and jaw action is realistic. The ersatz patient was developed by the National Institute of Dental Health, Bethesda, Md. The manikin permits students to get used to working within the confined area of the mouth without hurting a real patient.



### Microwave ovens become hot subject

Are microwave ovens completely safe to use? A leading consumer-testing organization thinks not, stating in a report that animal experimentation proves that microwaves can cause cataracts and other bodily damage. The organization tested 15 different ovens and found that all "allowed at least some microwave radiation . . . to escape . . ." Quick to refute the charges was Amana Refrigeration, Inc., maker of the most popular line of the fast-cooking ovens. Amana spokesmen said that the standard of permissible leakage—1 milliwatt per square centimeter—had been set by the federal government and pointed out that their ovens register below that level in routine factory checks (see photo). At a press briefing, Dr. James A. Van Allen, the well-known physicist, said he owned an Amana and would sit on it "for a solid year while it is in full operation, with no apprehension as to my safety."

### Laser used for baggage sorting

A new baggage sorting-routing system for airline terminals will be unveiled this fall at Miami's International Airport. It uses a gas laser to "read" encoded labels on bags moving along a conveyor. Decoded information is relayed to a digital controller that signals a sorting device, then routes each bag. Made by Bendix Recognition Systems of Southfield, Mich., the system will cost \$2.5 million and sort 70 bags per minute.

### New program to help inventors

Inventors with projects that qualify can get technical help under a new government

*(Please turn to page 40)*



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## SCIENCE WORLDWIDE

(Continued from page 38)

program—the Experimental R&D Incentives Program—according to the National Science Foundation. Prototypes of inventions judged promising will be put through "performance validation" tests by one of a number of federal labs. The purpose is to find ways of cutting the time required to make new processes, services and products available to the public. For information, write: NSF Program Manager, National Science Foundation, Room 549, 1800 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550.



## Plastic trap for curious seagull

One among many environmental problems is plastic debris. It's found almost everywhere—far out at sea and in such remote places as Arctic beaches. That it can be harmful to wildlife was demonstrated anew recently when a Pacific gull was found on a California beach, its neck caught in a plastic container used in packaging six-packs of beer. It's thought the bird saw the plastic floating, poked its head through a hole to look below and died of strangulation.

## Satellite system monitors volcanoes

New assignment for NASA's experimental Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS-1) is as a volcano watchdog, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. ERTS-1 is keeping an eye on 15 volcanoes in the United States, Iceland, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Data from sensors on the volcanoes is automatically beamed to the satellite, then to Earth again. Recently, the system successfully detected signs of activity in a Guatemalan volcano six days before it erupted.

★★★



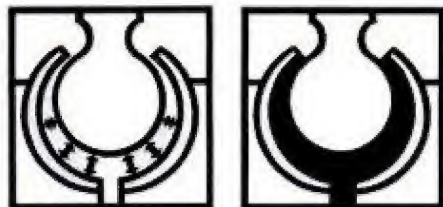
# Front end shimmy can start right here.



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### Introducing Shimmy Stop...a totally unique do-it-yourself way to restore worn ball joints without spending a lot of money!

Worn ball joints can cost you a bundle . . . because they affect the way tires wear, the way your car tracks, the way your car handles, and the way the front end keeps its alignment. All of that can add up to a dangerous loss of front end precision. But until now, the only way to solve the problem was to replace the ball joints. That can cost up to one hundred dollars.



Shimmy Stop restores front end precision . . . SHIMMY STOP actually restores worn ball joints that are still within recommended tolerances. Once SHIMMY STOP compound is mixed (in its own cartridge) and injected directly into the ball joint, it cures to a rugged self-lubricating solid that fills the worn area between ball and socket. It actually reduces the tolerance to zero!

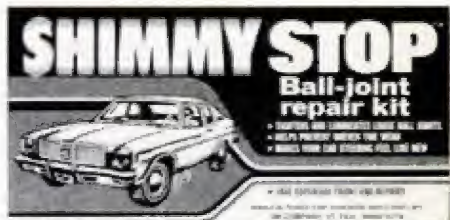
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developed, tested and proved SHIMMY STOP in all kinds of cars under all kinds of conditions. (in fact 3M spent 7 years developing SHIMMY STOP and tested it for more than a million miles.)

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## IMPORTS AND MOTORSPORTS

### Red-hot thirst-quencher

The 1000-hp, turbocharged Porsche 917-10K is out to blitz the '73 Can-Am series—again. Driver George Follmer is looking to take the crown two years running. The "Royal Crown," we should say, since the



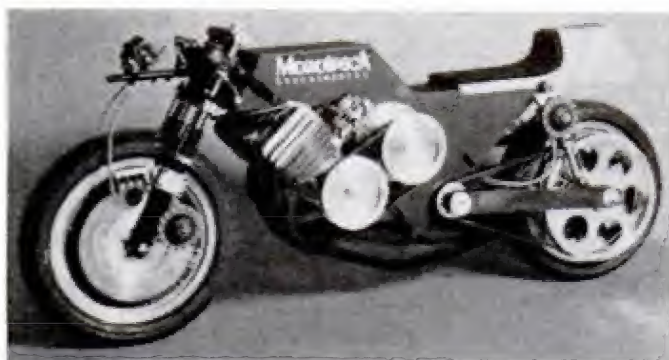
cola company is sponsoring the Porsches this year, and the team preparing the cars is Bobby Rinzler Motoracing. The \$1-million season has just kicked off and all the SCCA Canadian-American Challenge Cup events are being televised nationally. Here's the schedule:

July 8	Gainesville, Ga.
July 22	Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Aug. 12	Lexington, Ohio
Aug. 26	Elkhart Lake, Wis.
Sept. 16	Irish Hills, Mich.
Sept. 30	Edmonton, Alta.
Oct. 14	Monterey, Calif.
Oct. 28	Riverside, Calif.

disc brake but, on a production version, dual discs will be optional.

The suspension up front is damped by an air-oil system similar to that used on Austin American cars—there is a remote reservoir and each oscillation displaces a piston damping against a body of oil. Instead of having a hand brake for the front wheel and a foot brake for the back, Hanebrink plans to have one lever for front and rear. The engine is a Kohler three-cylinder two-stroke rated at roughly 80 hp. The snowmobile engine uses a torque converter: There's no chain. Instead, the primary drive comes off the side of the engine using a one-inch-wide timing belt. The belt goes around a huge sprocket almost as big as the rear wheel.

The chassis of the prototype is welded



magnesium weighing a scant 13 pounds! There's a fiberglass fairing over the frame and luxuries like electric starting to match the automatic transmission.

When will it be in production? Probably when a major manufacturer approaches Hanebrink with a sweet deal or when his Monotrack company sells enough accessories to support such a venture.

### A monocoque motorcycle?

Not since the Vincent Black Shadow—which had the front and rear suspension connected to the engine and was therefore nicknamed the "frameless wonder," has such a radical idea been proposed—but this one's even been built. Builder of this prototype is Dan Hanebrink of Monotrack Engineering, in Costa Mesa, Calif. They manufacture disc brakes, mag wheels and air-oil suspensions for motorcycles.

Hanebrink's dream bike is a rolling idea lab. It's got an 18-inch magnesium wheel—stronger than a wire wheel and lighter, to reduce unsprung weight. It's got a single

### The Volkswagen 'Thing'?

It started out as VW's "jeep" back in the army days of the 1940s; then, as the Type 181, it was made in Mexico for sale there;

*(Please turn to page 44)*



# **No Miracles Today!**

## **Just a few ideas from AC that may help improve your gasoline mileage.**

We don't claim to be miracle workers, but we have a few ideas that may help you improve your gasoline mileage.

First, check your driving habits. Don't practice jack-rabbit starts when the light turns green. Take off smoothly and drive at a steady pace. Avoid needless acceleration . . . weaving in and out of traffic. Slow down before stopping; that'll help your brakes, too. And for sure don't drive at excessive speeds.

Second, make sure your engine is properly tuned. Remember, you can lose up to 12 percent gasoline efficiency when one spark plug in an eight-cylinder engine fails to fire. Intermittent missing and fouling also take their toll.

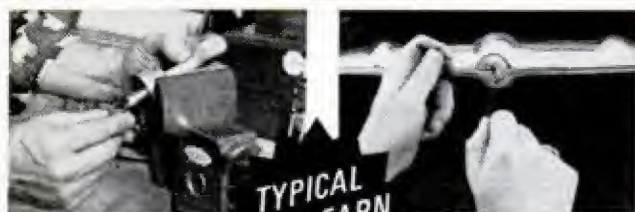
And third, whether you have your car tuned at your local service retailer or you tune it yourself, we would like to recommend AC Fire-Ring Spark Plugs. There's a set of ACs engineered to meet your car needs and driving conditions. Available most everywhere quality automotive parts are sold. We believe ACs will do a good job for you. We make them.



AC SPARK PLUG DIVISION



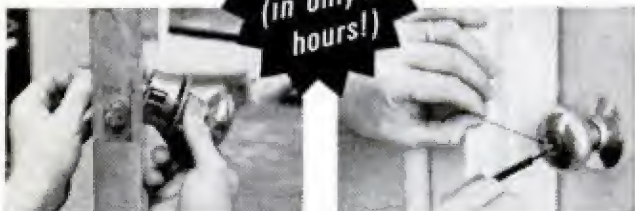
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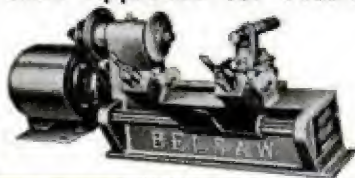
**R. W. Davis, St. Louis, Mo.:** "I am doing a wonderful business thanks to your course in locksmithing. Last Saturday I took in \$110.00."

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## IMPORTS AND MOTORSPORTS

(Continued from page 42)

now, VW of America is importing it from the VW de Mexico plant in Puebla as, you guessed it, a recreational vehicle. Someone at VW is rumored to have asked, "What'll we call the thing?" And, zap, the question was answered.

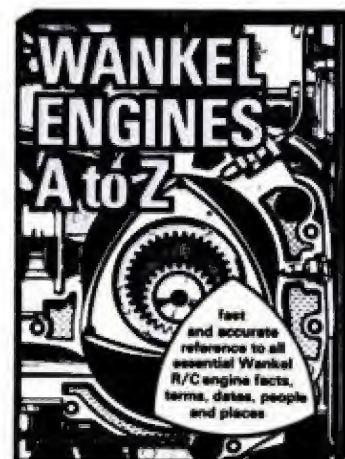


The Thing has four doors that are removable, a windshield that folds down and detachable top and side curtains. The Thing is powered by the Super Beetle engine and, at \$2750, costs slightly more.

## PM authors write on!

Two writers who have prepared stories for *Popular Mechanics* over the years are Karl Ludvigsen and Doug Richmond. Karl is a prolific motoring journalist who has published two books on the Corvette, one on Group 7 racing and an impressive volume on the Mercedes-Benz racing cars. His latest work is a pocket guide to rotary engines, *Wankel Engines A to Z*. It has the history, the people, the technical details and a unique visualization of how the Wankel works that you receive by flipping pages to see it go through two revolutions. It's \$5.95 plus

50 cents for postage from Karl, 68 Weston Rd., Weston, Conn. 06880. Doug's latest book, which follows his *All About Mini-bikes*, is *How to Select, Ride and Maintain Your Trail Bike*. \$5 each from H.P. Books, Box 50640, Tucson, Ariz. 85703. ★★





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So even though we've been in the gasoline and oil business for so many years, even we can't give you a simple answer.

We do recommend an oil change at least every 3000 miles or 3 months; but you should never exceed the automobile manufacturer's recommendation.

You should also read your owner's manual very carefully. Especially the fine print, which might reveal some exceptions according to your climate and driving practices.

If you still can't determine how often to change your oil, bring the manual and the car to your dealer. He changes a lot of oil in your area for people who probably have the same driving habits and type of automobile as yours.

Of course, we hope the dealer you bring your car to is a Gulf dealer. He'd be glad to help you learn about that, and anything else you'll like to know about your automobile.

You can also send your questions direct to Gulf Consumer Information, Box 1519-H, Houston, Texas 77001.

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## ALL OUTDOORS

**F**ishing, that lowly art, joined the big money sports this spring when the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and Miller High Life Beer teamed up to sponsor the final B.A.S.S. tournament this coming October. The 24 top fishermen from six qualifying contests this year will vie for first prize of over \$10,000 and title of world's bass fishing champion.

As in previous years, finalists will be put on a chartered airliner and not told the mystery site for the fish-off until they are in the air. As in preliminary tests, only artificial lures can be used and all fish will be released alive after the weigh-in scoring.

Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Box 3044, Montgomery, Ala. 36109, is open to all fishermen and now has over 100,000 members, according to B.A.S.S. president Ray Scott, and the newly added sponsorship will also make possible increased environmental programs and coast-to-coast conservation seminars. And on Oct. 24 to 26, during the Miller High Life Bass Masters Classic world championship, any of us 60-million fishermen who didn't make the finals can relax at the end of a cane pole and then

figure out just how we'll win it next year.

*Camping in the National Park System*, a new pocket-sized guide listing more than 29,000 campsites in 92 areas, is available for 50 cents from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Campground use fees are \$1 to \$4 per night for improved facilities, but back-country areas usually require only a permit. Computerized reservations are being tested for Acadia, Everglades, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

**Competition calendar:** July 4-6, Speer Matches, Knoxville, Tenn.; 6-8, International BB Gun Championships, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Ariz.; 10-22, U.S. International Skeet, Cleveland Winchester Gun Club, Chardon, Ohio; July 23-Aug. 20, NRA National, Camp Perry, Ohio; July 26-Aug. 3, National Skeet Assn. World Championships, Forest City Gun Club, Savannah, Ga.; July 31-Aug. 3, Varmint & Sporter Nationals, Kelbly's Rifle Range, Marshallville, Ohio. National Hunting & Fishing Day is Sept. 22.

*(Please turn to page 48)*

**Hutch is Chevrolet's name for new canvas cover** making RV out of Vega and Nova hatchbacks and Vega Kamm-back for under \$60. For the LUV pickup, a \$138 hutch and cargo cover convert to cabin plus porch "Kabana."





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## ALL OUTDOORS

(Continued from page 46)



**Fifth-wheel trailers** can raise roof too with a push-up addition from Pop-Top of Mentor, Ohio. Headroom was raised from 54 to 81 inches on Jayco Li'l Rascal.



**Keeping outdoors out** is purpose of Nomad vinyl camp mat by 3M. Dirt caught outside RV or tent filters through or washes out. \$5.98 at camp, RV outlets.



**Load-Tamer** from Scovill, Waterbury, Conn., is a \$60 dash-control vacuum-power, compressor to adjust rear air shock absorbers and level vehicle towing trailer.



**Sportsman 360 Fluorescent Lantern**, from Ray-O-Vac has dual tubes for circle of shadowless light, bulb, hi-lo switches, waterproof seals; \$38 with batteries.

**Canteen** said to keep contents hot or cold is "fully insulated" Alpine from Poloron Products, New Rochelle, N.Y. Has safety-orange high impact plastic case, foam insulation, washable plastic liner, carrying strap and attached cap. Holds quart, \$2.89.



**AFC indoor-outdoor cordless lamp** by Ashflash, South Norwalk, Conn., is attractive enough for nights in an RV, rugged for outside use. \$9.95 with batteries.

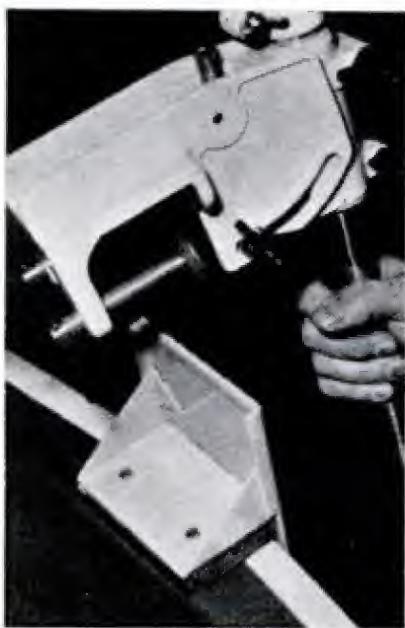




Join the bass-boat boom and pay up to \$10,000 for a fully fitted-out boat—or build this 15-footer with \$19 plans or a \$99 frame kit obtained from Glen-L, 9152 Rosecrans, Bellflower, Calif. 90706.



Trim and Tilt Kit made available by OMC Accessories provides flick-of-the-switch power adjustments for 65 to 135-hp Evinrude and Johnson outboards while they are running, and offers full tilt for beaching.



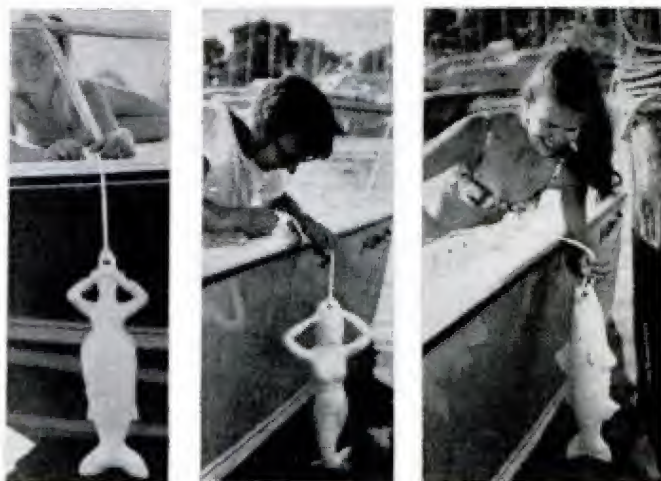
Now every boat can mount one of the popular electric trolling motors on its bow, transom or along the gunwale with this new \$6.95 bracket manufactured by Tempo Products, Solon, Ohio 44139.



WonderTroll 624 fishing motor by Shakespeare, Kalamazoo, Mich., takes 24 volts from two 12-volt batteries for extra power and range, or can run on 12 volts.



Bass-boat fishermen should like convenience, safety of 12-volt Auto-Ancor Winch, \$95. Waukegan Outdoor Products, Gurnee, Ill. For 18-lb. anchor, 50-ft. line.



Fancy fender figurines in rugged white vinyl represent Jonah, mermaid and a fish; 20-inch Fender Characters by N.A. Taylor, Gloversville, N.Y., are \$7.95 each.







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### Big-scale thrills at a small-scale price

If you'd rather fly model planes than build them, you can now get gasoline-powered plastic warbirds and racers for as little as \$10.

### Grandfather clock kit

Time was when only a highly skilled craftsman would attempt to build a clock like this. Now you can start with a kit of precut hardwoods and preassembled parts and know you'll end up with a handsome clock that will be an heirloom.



### New patio carts

PM plans three carts for indoor/outdoor use: mobile cooking center, bar-with-sink on wheels, roll-about stereo unit. Great for a rec room. You can't buy one; we show how to build them.

### Hazardous cargoes

Dynamite, poison gases, artillery shells—all kinds of deadly cargoes are rolling by truck and rail through our cities and down the streets of unsuspecting towns. Here's what can be done to lessen the danger.



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How to repair aluminum screens and storms • A snappy little two-place plane you can build • What those TV tuning buttons do and don't do • What cars need to meet California's clean-air standards. • How to repair a dishwasher. • Garden tractor you build from a kit • How to build retaining walls • How to take great pictures in the great outdoors.

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PM-81



## DETROIT LISTENING POST

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### New but not unique

The new Mustang coming in a couple months may be hard-pressed to live up to its advance billing—on two counts. One, contrary to the press agency that Ford's putting out about the car being as much of a pacesetter as the original 1965 Mustang, the new version doesn't look that new. It will be an everything-new car that's readily distinguishable from the current Mustang. But it won't be a nothing-else-like-it car in the way that the '65 was a unique concept.

And where you could buy a '65 for \$2400, son-of for '74 is expected to cost close to \$3000 delivered because of the luxury touches it'll carry. Ford isn't worried about the price angle, because there are a certain number of people who will always want to have an all-new car the first year out, price no object. But once the first-year stampede has subsided, Ford may have to delete some of the deluxe gear in an effort to get the price down to a level where it will attract more buyers.

---

### Fewer options

Ford's about had it with the something-for-everybody approach to automaking. No company in the business has tried harder than Ford to let the customer build his own car by picking the pieces out of the catalog, designating exactly what he wants put on or left off.

They used to say in Dearborn that if it'd beat GM out of a sale, Ford would put the wheels on the roof. No more. The company feels many of its problems in recent years—recalls, getting engines certified by the government, relationships with dealers and suppliers—can be attributed to too much diversity of product.

The please-'em-all policy is going to be cut back. One of the first cuts will be in choice of engines. Ford sells half as many cars as GM and has three times as many engines. Two, the 429 and 460-c.i.d., will be weeded

out in the next 18 months. And that's just for openers.

Other options will be made standard or you'll have to buy the next highest priced car for the privilege of playing take it or leave it.

---

### Moving to metrics

Ford will be the next automaker to switch to metrics, following GM's lead. Ford is actually a centimeter ahead of GM at this point, because the Pinto engine and most Pinto transmission parts are already in metrics. Also, the 2.3-liter ohc engine for the '74 Mustang being built in Lima, Ohio, will be all metric. GM won't get into metric measurements until its Wankel engine goes into production.

Both Ford and GM are estimating that the complete changeover will take at least 10 years.

---

### Rear lights to leave the bumper

All '74 Ford cars made in the United States will have rear lights built into the body, rather than into the bumper. All automakers are moving in this direction and it is just a matter of time—depending on when a car is due for a major model change—until the body-mounted headlights and taillights become an industry-wide standard. The idea is to put the lights in protected areas where they are least likely to be damaged in an accident.

---

### Lower lines call for squeeze under hood

With lower belt lines and hoods—especially hoods—to be the trend on future cars, General Motors is seeking to squash, flatten and compact everything installed under the hood

*(Please turn to page 58)*





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## DETROIT LISTENING POST

(Continued from page 56)

that can be miniaturized or squeezed into a smaller space.

This will be a tough job. With the engine compartments already bulging over, it will take some extremely clever packaging by engineers and designers to drop their hoods two or three inches.

### Three-pony parley for AMC

American Motors is convinced it has a winner in the new ponycar that it plans to bring out a year from this fall. What had started out to be a single car is being stretched into a three-car line, including the basic two-door, a fastback sports version and a hatchback. It's not a sure thing yet, but the fastback sports version is a good candidate for a Wankel engine.

### Pull-out instrument panels

Easy-to-service instrument panels—remove a few screws and the panel drops down or pulls out for quick access to wiring and parts stashed behind the dash—will be extended to all of GM's standard-size cars and its top-priced intermediates within two years. Some Pontiacs and Buicks have the feature now and GM says that experience reports from both owners and mechanics have been nothing but good. Easy-service panels will also be used on some '74 Chrysler cars.

### Numerical gas gauge

Chrysler Imperial—probably the '75 car but if not, the '76—will have a digital gas gauge. But it hasn't been decided yet whether the readout numbers will be in gallons left in the tank or miles of travel the car can go before the fuel supply is exhausted. The company is working on both versions. The problem with giving the figures in miles of travel is that it will emphasize poor mileage and Chrysler obviously doesn't want to make a point of that. You can run your own mileage check, of course, but that's not the same as having the figures flashing in front of you as a constant reminder that the engine is a guzzling glutton.

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BY PAUL MANN

### Clue search

*I have a Westinghouse automatic washer. The soak and spin cycles work okay, but I can't activate the wash cycle. What's wrong?—A. Culteone, South Euclid, Ohio.*

You don't give me too much information but the part of your letter that says "I can't activate the wash cycle" provides a clue. Does your washer fill with water automatically, agitate for one minute and then stop, allowing clothes to soak—the kind that stays in the soak phase until you move the control two notches by hand, throwing the washer into rinse and final spin? If moving the control doesn't start the rinse cycle, the trouble probably lies with a faulty timer.

If you have an all-automatic machine that doesn't kick into the agitate cycle, the problem is likely to be a defective transmission or motor.

### Not so automatic

*I have an automatic water softener that's been a pain since I bought it in 1968. The only thing "factory-trained" servicemen have done is to replace one sensor with another. The unit simply doesn't regenerate automatically as advertised. One serviceman had the nerve to tell me to operate the unit manually. I paid for an automatic conditioner—why can't I have an automatic conditioner?—Gordon A. Berg, Menasha, Wis.*

I hate to be the voice of gloom, but the guy who told you to use the machine manually was doing you a favor. In theory, "automatic" water softeners that employ sensors should work automatically; in practice, they often do not because of certain variables that can't be controlled. Servicemen found out quickly—now the public is learning.

In units with sensors, automatic operation should begin when two solid-state sensors detect that the bed of resin has been exhausted and needs regeneration. To do

this, the sensors measure resistance between a layer of resin that's charged and the layer needing regeneration. Fine—except that this action is often disrupted by an outside source, such as iron or other impurity in the water, or a fluctuation in water temperature. There's no economical way to control these variables, so it's best to forget about the automatic feature and try to get your money's worth with manual operation.

You shouldn't condemn all automatic devices because of this one's actions. Another way to achieve automatic regulation is by programming—that is, using a timer set to kick off automatic regeneration at programmed intervals. This automatic feature, in use many years, is reliable.

### Perpetual motion

*I have a problem with a General Electric Versatronic clothes dryer. When used on automatic cycle, the machine does not shut off. I have to disconnect it manually. The timer motor has been changed. What else do you think is wrong?—Stuart Jacobson, Farmingville, N.Y.*

The motor may be grounded or there may be a short in the wiring. In any event, it's not a do-it-yourself repair. Call in a qualified General Electric serviceman.

### Flip flop

*I have a Sunbeam Steam Ironmaster, model S-6. Can you tell me how to get at the steam-on, steam-off control knob located in front of the handle so it can be repaired? The knob won't stay in the up position.—Alfred Baldassari, Bronx, N.Y.*

Look for a small plastic pin on the handle at front. Pry it up with a knife blade until it can be removed with pliers. This will re-

[\(Please turn to page 62\)](#)



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## APPLIANCE CLINIC

(Continued from page 60)

lease the handle, exposing the base of the knob, held by a U-shaped clip. If it has fallen out of place, reset it.

### Coffee brake

*We have an automatic coffeemaker that makes about 30 cups—when it's working. A rubber part attached to the plunger in the spigot either comes loose or loses its elasticity. When it fouls, the spigot becomes inoperative, and there lie 30 cups of coffee that have to be ladled from the pot. Is there a place where we can buy this part, or is it necessary to buy a new spigot, which is almost as expensive as a new coffeemaker?—Ralph W. Kinsey, Lamesa, Tex.*

The rubber part can be bought separately for about 75 cents. If you can't get it in Lamesa, one parts supplier who will send it to you is Boulevard Brunswick Appliance Service, Milltown Rd. and State Hwy. 18, East Brunswick, N.J. 08816. If you order, be sure to specify the appliance by manufacturer and model number.

### New life

*I have a tip for your readers, concerning a Hoover upright vacuum cleaner we bought a few years ago. At first, it did a good job, but it gradually went sour and wouldn't pick up ravelings. It also blew dust around the room. I took off the bag and started the unit, placing my hand over the large opening over which the bag fits. Absolutely no air. I disconnected the unit and started probing around inside with a piece of wire. Guess what I discovered? The sponge rubber lining had somehow folded over and cut off suction. I straightened out the lining, and now the vacuum works as good as new.—R. A. Prehm, Marysville, Wash.*

It just goes to prove that curiosity and ingenuity can breathe new life into seemingly dead appliances. ★★★

If you have a question about any appliance, send it to Appliance Clinic, Popular Mechanics, 224 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. Sorry, but letters cannot be answered individually. Problems of wide interest will be answered in this column.



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## HOMEOWNERS' CLINIC

BY W. CLYDE LAMMEY

### Leak in a flat roof

*My garage has a flat roof and there's a leak near its center. Examination turns up what looks like a small blister. What can I do about fixing this?—M. Daly, Nashville, Tenn.*

Assuming the blister is in the mineral roll-roofing, you could, of course, slit and flatten the blister and apply an entirely new roof with "hot-mop" tar. But, to just seal the blister, slit it and force roof mastic in the slit under the felt. Nail down both sides of the slit with flathead roofing nails. Then cover the entire patched area with a healthy-sized piece of asphalt roof felt (mineral roll-roofing) laid over roofing compound. Nail down the rim of the patch and seal all edges with mastic.

### Sapwood shows through finish

*I have a small desk, a reproduction, and on the drop lid a strip, or streak, of lighter wood is beginning to show quite noticeably. Is there any way to conceal this without removing all the finish from the lid?—Emmet Polk, Dallas.*

If I can judge correctly from your brief description, this is a piece of sapwood, which often shows up after prolonged exposure to light, even where the wood was originally stained. I doubt that you will be able to obtain a satisfactory job of spot-finishing without removing the original finish down to the wood. After you take off this finish, you can conceal the lighter wood by rubbing in a stain made from artist's colors. Allow this to dry thoroughly—at least 48 hours—and then refinish it in the original color.

### Noisy electric clock

*I have an older-type electric clock that's making noises—a scratchy humming sound*

*that keeps me awake. If I tip the clock slightly, the noise changes pitch, but continues. Can anything be done to quiet the racket?—Bill Johnson, Minneapolis.*

In the older electric clocks, you can generally attribute this trouble to the tiny gear train that runs dry and becomes noisy because of lack of lubricant. Disconnect the cord from the outlet, take off the back of the case, and you'll see the gear train just back of the dial. Clean the gears with alcohol or lacquer thinner and apply a drop or two of oil—never more—to the gearing. Clock oil, in a container with a tiny spout, is best; it is sold by clock parts dealers and some jewelers and antique shops. But a light machine oil or household oil can be used.

While you are at it, lubricate the motor as well, remembering that just a drop or two does it.

### Decorating narrow windows

*How does one decorate those tall, narrow windows in an old home like mine? Two are in pairs, but two others are single. The tops are semicircular.—Mrs. Reginald Kemper, Cincinnati.*

I would think first of either cafe curtains or deep valances with drapery, with the latter being made wider than the windows and attached to the wall (see *How to Hang Drapery Traverse Rods*, page 144, March '73 PM). This treatment will have the effect of lowering the height of the windows and at the same time promoting the feeling of width. Of course, there are several other treatments, but it seems to me that the valances would be most effective, especially in a large room. ★★

*Do you have a home maintenance or repair problem? Send it to Homeowners' Clinic, Popular Mechanics, 224 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. While letters cannot be answered individually, problems of wide interest will be discussed in this column.*





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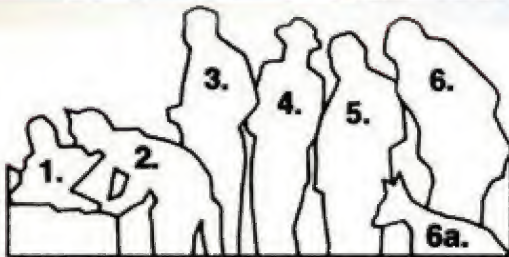
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# Can you spot the Camel Filters smoker?

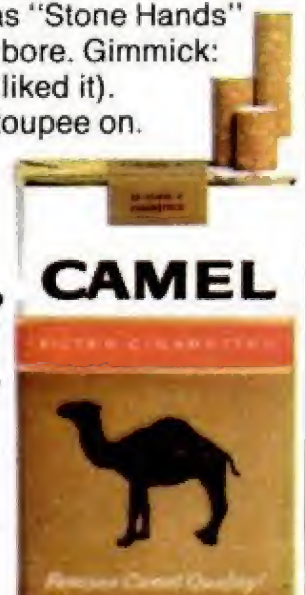


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At class reunions almost everybody has a gimmick. Try picking the one who doesn't go along. **1.** Nope. He's Don Wand. Won school essay contest with "The Art of Pre-Marital Dancing." Gimmick: 200 mm holder to balance his 100 mm cigarette. **2.** No. It's Rah-Rah Mendelson, ex-cheerleader. Gimmick: He's wearing it. Smokes whatever he finds in his pouch. **3.** No. He's Moe Mentum, alias "Stone Hands" for dropping passes. Just dropped statue of school mascot. **4.** T. Deious, school bore. Gimmick: His voice, off-key contralto. Smokes oval cigarettes (he sat on his soft-pack and liked it). **5.** Curley Gilroy. His hair was voted "Most Likely to Recede." Gimmick: Staples toupee on. Also staples his roll-your-owns. **6.** Right. He's still his own man. Likes his cigarette honest, no-nonsense, too. Camel Filters. Easy and good tasting. **6a.** Kicky VIII, mascot. Has eyes only for Mendelson (see 2 above).

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20 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report FEB. '73.



Checking her engine on easy warm-up laps before competition is karting's Grand National Champion, Kathey Hartman. Her husband, John, builds some of the hottest karts in the sport and she races them—in both sprint and enduro competition. Moreover, she is "top wrench," building and tuning the engines.



## Karting: Everybody's chance to be a race driver!

Once they were lawnmower engines on frames; now they look—and go—like Formula 1 racers!

by Michael Lamm  
WEST COAST EDITOR

**I**f you thought karting was dead, you couldn't be more wrong! Karting is very much alive and running machines you wouldn't believe. But they're for real.

The wildest karts now look like miniaturized Can-Am cars, and that's about what they are. They run in a class called FKE (Formula Kart Experimental). The fiberglass bodies are so low that the driver has to lie almost flat on his back to drive one. Top speed of this class? About 130 mph, and since that's with superfast steering ( $\frac{1}{3}$  turn lock to lock), FKE spells flying.

Another class, the big C-Open karts, can out-dig AA/Fuel dragsters up to about 50 mph. Wings and spoilers aren't in the rule books yet, but drivers are putting them on anyway to keep from taking off.

These karts aren't anything like the ones









PHOTOS BY TOM BATES AND JOHN DUKE, *Karter News*

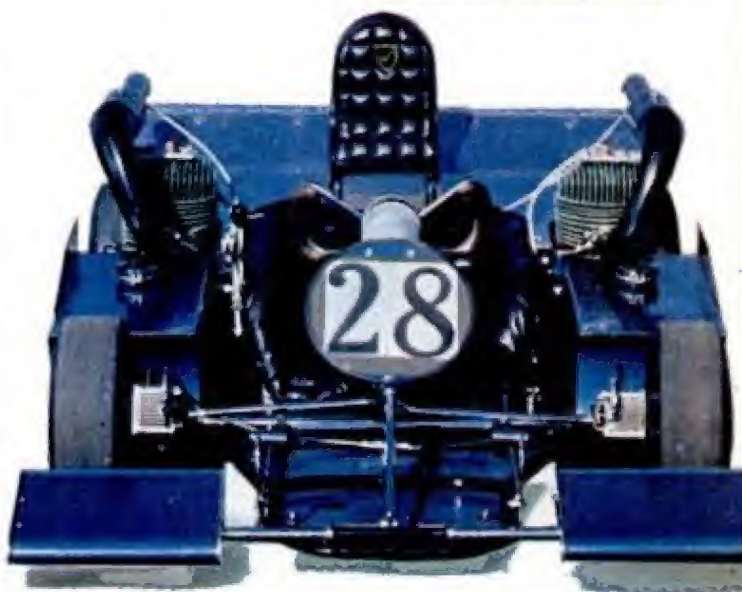
guna Seca and so forth—on these, you can just about go flat out all the way around.

"At Riverside, for example, the only place you slow down . . . you lift momentarily at Turn 6 and maybe a little at Turn 7. Riverside's dreaded esses are nothing but a straightaway for the laydown karts."

What speeds do these racing karts average in actual competition? Tops in C-Open

goes to 160 mph, but most karters rarely hit that because of traffic and the need to stay on the course! But to give you an example of average speeds, compare karts with the big boys. A couple of years ago, Jackie Stewart won the Questor GP at Ontario in a Matra Formula I, averaging 98 mph. Karts now circle that same course at 94 mph. At Michigan International Speedway, a kart re-

*(Please turn to page 182)*



Karts like No. 28 have wings and spoilers to keep them on ground at 150 mph! Side fuel tanks feed thirsty twin-engines. Enduro races (left) are run on big road courses like Watkins Glen and Riverside, turn laps close to fastest sports cars.



# How to troubleshoot your airconditioner

If you find after a winter's "hibernation" that your room airconditioner doesn't work as well as it did last summer, don't call a serviceman right away. There are a number of checks you can make to determine what's wrong and pinpoint the part or parts that need replacing. You'll be surprised at what you can save by being your own appliance repairman.

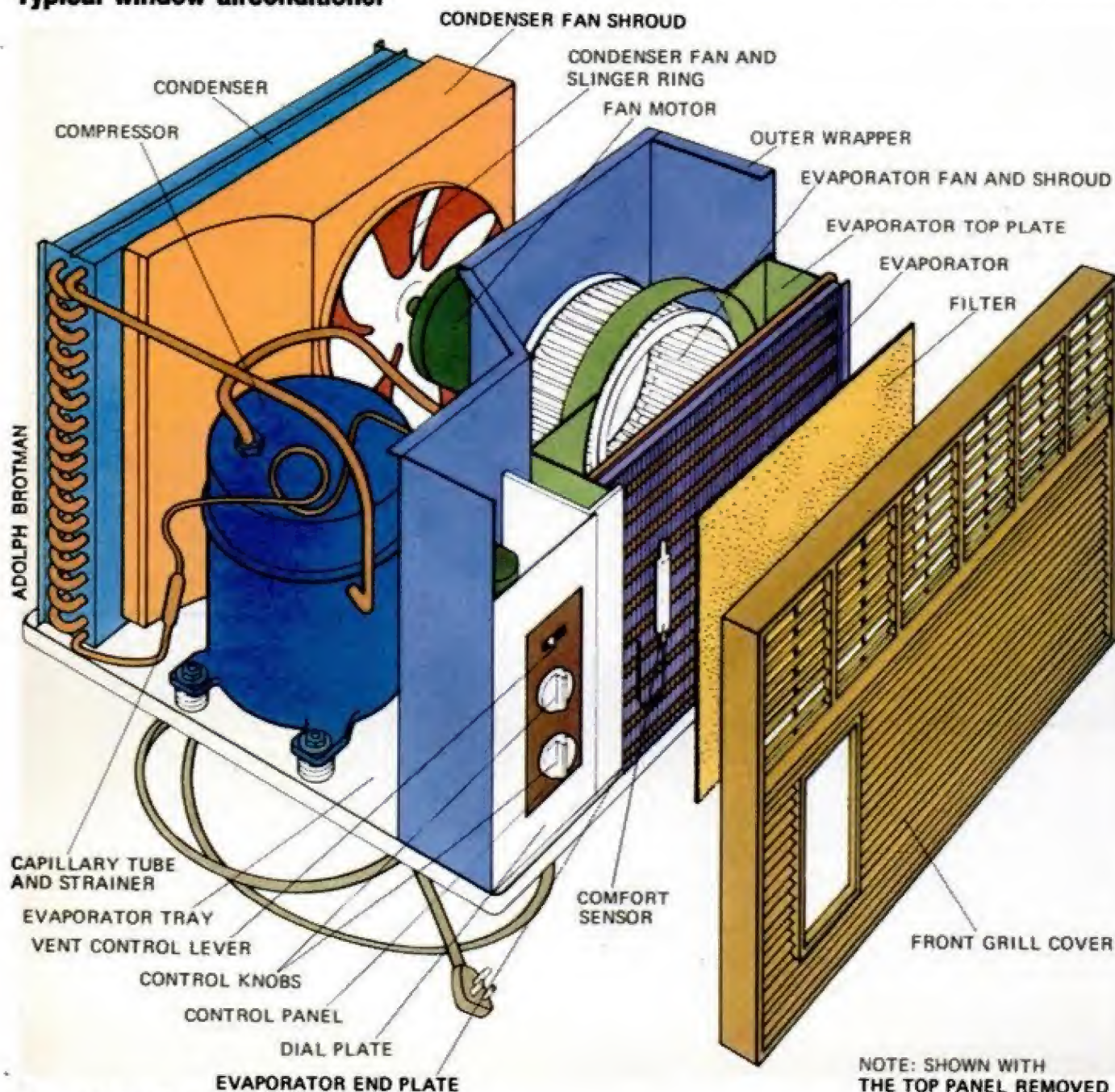
It may be that the air filter is simply dirty. A dirty filter restricts airflow over

the cooling coil and cuts efficiency. Some models have a permanent-type germicidal filter made of spongy material that can be washed in soap and water, rinsed, squeezed dry and reinstalled. Others have fiberglass filters that should be replaced when laden with dust and lint.

The unit's inner compartment should also be cleaned. Although there are two types of chassis—one that slides out like a drawer and one that has to be totally removed from

DATA BY ED FRANZESE

## Typical window airconditioner





the window—both are cleaned the same way: Use a vacuum cleaner to blow dirt and lint off the condenser and evaporator. Then clean the compressor, fan motor and blades and tubing with a quickly evaporating solvent such as trichloroethylene, sold in hardware and paint stores.

When reinstalling a window unit, especially the chassis-type that does not slide out, be sure it is properly tilted for condensate flow and drain of water (usually  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$

in. low on the outside. Finally, make sure the unit is plugged in.

During the hottest days of summer, it's good practice to operate the air conditioner on MAXIMUM or HIGH COOL. At this setting, air is cooled, filtered, dehumidified and circulated at the highest rate. On average summer days and at night, switch the unit to LOW COOL to reduce current draw and prevent possible icing up of the evaporator on cool nights. ★★★

#### Unit will not run

##### POSSIBLE CAUSES

##### ACTION TO TAKE

- 1 Blown fuse or open circuit breaker.

Check voltage at wall receptacle with test lamp. If lamp doesn't light, replace fuse or reset circuit breaker. Make certain air conditioner is off.

- 2 Broken or loose wiring connection.

Check service cord at wall outlet and cord connections on control switch.

- 3 Defective thermostat.

Unplug unit. Turn thermostat to Cool position. Check for continuity (uninterrupted connection) across thermostat's terminals with a continuity tester, available at hardware stores. If no continuity exists, replace the thermostat.

- 4 Defective start capacitor.

Unplug unit. Remove start capacitor (the smaller of two capacitors located behind control panel). Replace with new capacitor of the same rating.

#### Fan runs, compressor does not

##### POSSIBLE CAUSES

##### ACTION TO TAKE

- 1 Defective thermostat.

Turn thermostat to High Cool, place jumper wire across thermostat terminals. If compressor comes on, replace thermostat.

- 2 Defective run capacitor.

Unplug unit. Remove run capacitor (the larger of two capacitors behind control panel) and replace it with new one of the same rating.

- 3 Overload switch open or defective.

Remove overload switch (may be attached to outside of compressor). Place continuity tester across overload terminals. There should be a reading if overload is at room temperature (70° F.). If no reading, replace overload.

- 4 Loose or broken wiring connections.

Check all wiring and terminals. Clean all rust and replace defective wiring and terminals.

- 5 Mechanical "stall" or defective compressor.

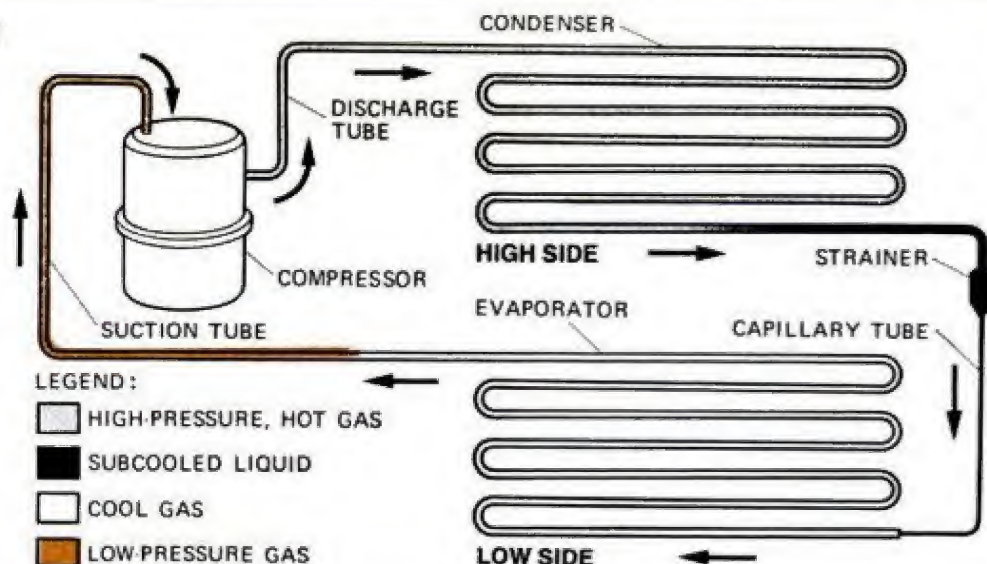
Temporarily hook up compressor directly to power line to see if it will run (try this only on 117-volt models, not on 220-volt types). Do this for just a few seconds. If compressor fails to start, a new compressor may be needed.

MORE  
→



## REFRIGERANT CYCLE IN AIRCONDITIONER

Refrigerant cycle at the right is in all window airconditioners. All have same components and pattern of flow. The amount of refrigerant used in system is only difference.



**Compressor runs, but fan does not**

### POSSIBLE CAUSES

**1 Defective fan switch.**

### ACTION TO TAKE

Unplug unit. Place continuity test lamp across High, Medium and Low terminals on switch (refer to the manufacturer's schematic). If no reading is indicated at any or all terminals, replace switch.

**2 Defective fan capacitor.**

Unplug unit. Replace fan capacitor (usually common with run capacitor) with one of exactly same rating.

**3 Defective fan motor winding.**

Unplug unit. Check each winding (High, Medium and Low) of fan motor with continuity test lamp. Refer to wiring diagram for proper connections or bridge tester across switch terminals and ground on motor housing. If no reading is indicated in any winding, replace fan motor.

**4 Blower wheel binding.**

Try to spin blower wheel. Failure of wheel to spin freely is a result of improper clearance. Adjust blower wheel on motor shaft or blower shroud surrounding the fan assembly.

**Unit blows fuse or trips circuit breaker**

### POSSIBLE CAUSES

**1 Unit restarted too soon after running.**

### ACTION TO TAKE

Allow three to five minutes for the system to balance (pressures to equalize) before turning the unit on again.

**2 Circuit overloaded.**

Place the airconditioner on a line by itself and check for proper fusing.

**3 Stuck or defective compressor.**

See the section "Fan runs, compressor does not," page 73.

**4 Defective run capacitor.**

Unplug the unit. Then replace the defective part with a new run capacitor which has exactly the same capacity rating.

**5 Wiring shorted or grounded to frame.**

Check all electrical connections to the compressor and behind the control panel. Connections should be tight and should not touch any metal parts of the airconditioner.



## Unit short cycling

### POSSIBLE CAUSES

### ACTION TO TAKE

- 1 Thermostat short cycling.

Evaporator is either blocked or dirty and must be cleaned. Make sure that only the thermostat sensing bulb is touching the evaporator and is clamped tightly to it.

- 2 Defective condenser.

Check the fan operation. If the fan should become hot and stop, replace the motor. Check the blades for clearance.

- 3 Condenser dirty.

Blow out the condenser (using the blower of your vacuum cleaner) until light can be seen through the fins.

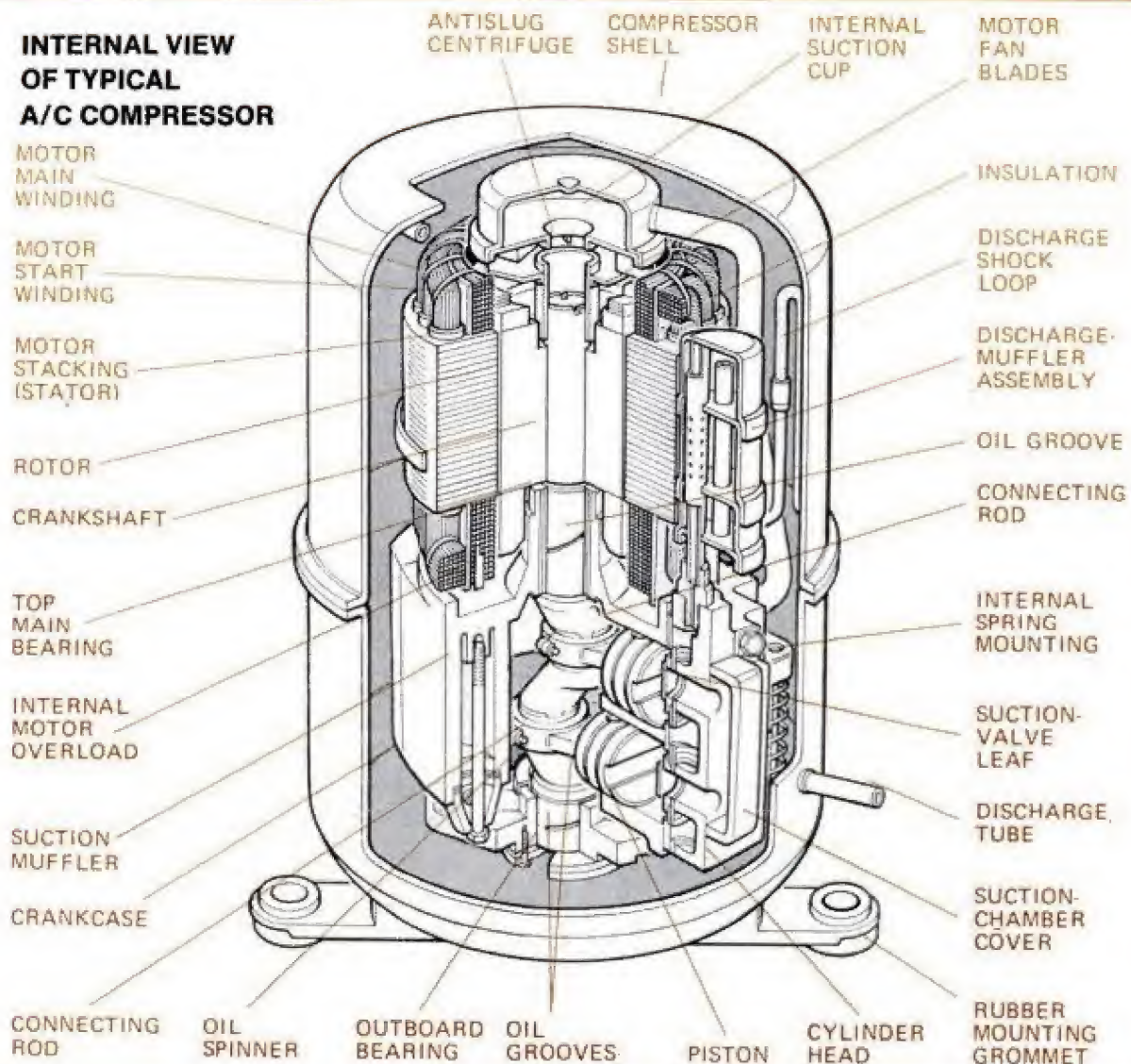
- 4 Defective overload.

If the compressor isn't overheated, and the overload is at room temperature, and no continuity is read across the overload terminals, replace the overload switch.

- 5 Unit restarted too soon after running.

Allow from three to five minutes for the system to restore its pressure balance; then try restarting the unit again.

### INTERNAL VIEW OF TYPICAL A/C COMPRESSOR



PETER TROJAN

MORE  
→



## Unit not cooling

**Heat survey:** Multiply volume of room in cu. ft. by 10 if another room or an insulated attic is above, by 18 if not. Multiply result by factor for exposure of the longest wall (north 16, east 17, south 18, west 19) and divide by 60 to get B.T.U. rating.

POSSIBLE CAUSES	ACTION TO TAKE
<b>1 Thermostat set warm.</b>	Turn thermostat to a higher setting.
<b>2 Filter dirty.</b>	Check filter for dirt accumulation. Light should be able to pass through it. Replace or wash filters according to brand.
<b>3 Condenser dirty or restricting airflow.</b>	Blow out condenser with vacuum cleaner and clean fins of all dirt buildup.
<b>4 Compressor won't run.</b>	See section "Fan runs, compressor does not," page 73.
<b>5 Leaking seals.</b>	Check all seals around window. Make sure windows are shut and that curtains or furniture don't block unit.
<b>6 Undersized unit.</b>	Make heat survey of room for correct B.T.U. size of unit. Check according to accompanying directions.
<b>7 Refrigerant leak.</b>	Check amperage (current draw) of unit while it runs (you can do this if you have an ammeter handy). Compare current reading to manufacturer's nameplate amperage rating to see if motor is drawing current properly. If current draw is below rated amperage and everything else checks okay, this may indicate a refrigerant leak. Test for leaks by rubbing soapy solution over outside of tubing and around joints. Watch for bubbles that show up leaks. If leaks are found, call serviceman to repair and recharge unit.

## PROPER EXTENSION-CORD WIRE SIZES AND LENGTHS

(For use with 117-volt airconditioning units)

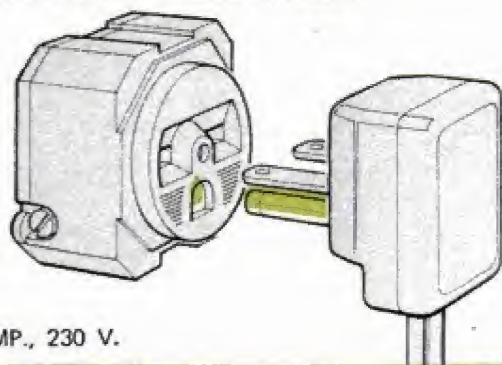
LENGTH OF CORD (in feet)	AMPERES REQUIRED (see nameplate on units)							
	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
	AWG Wire Size							
to 25	18	18	16	14	14	12	12	12
26-50	16	16	14	14	12	12	12	10
51-75	14	14	12	12	10	10	10	8
76-100	14	12	12	12	10	10	8	8

## Evaporator frosts over

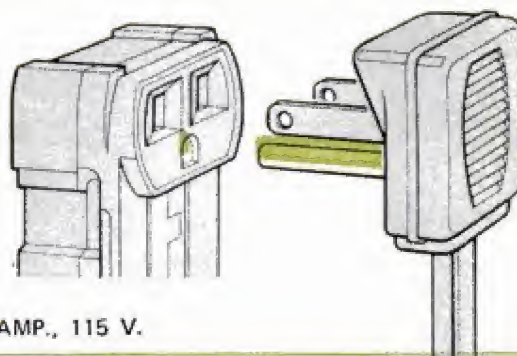
POSSIBLE CAUSES	ACTION TO TAKE
<b>1 Restricted airflow over evaporator.</b>	Check for dirty filter, blocked air passages, lint buildup on the blower wheel or blocked fins on the evaporator. Clean all items.
<b>2 Outside temperature too low.</b>	If temperature outside drops below 70° F., either turn unit off or set thermostat at Low Cool and fan at Low Speed.
<b>3 Thermostat too high or defective.</b>	Lower setting of thermostat. If problem still exists, turn thermostat off and check for continuity between the terminals. If a reading exists, thermostat is defective and must be replaced.
<b>4 Refrigerant leak or undercharge.</b>	See section "Unit not cooling" (above).
<b>5 Low fan speed.</b>	Check fan for higher speed, binding at housing, loose blade on shaft or defective motor. Correct or replace motor.



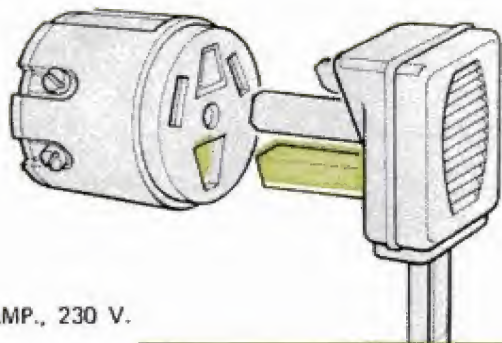
## TYPICAL OUTLET RECEPTACLES



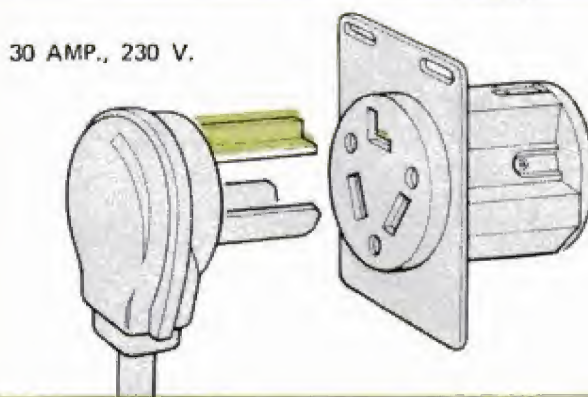
15 AMP., 230 V.



15 AMP., 115 V.



20 AMP., 230 V.



30 AMP., 230 V.

## Noisy operation

### POSSIBLE CAUSES

- 1 Tubing vibration.
- 2 Fan blade loose on shaft or bent.
- 3 Fan motor loose on mounts.
- 4 Loose parts.

### ACTION TO TAKE

- Reshape or bend tubing so there is no rubbing of tubing against metal.
- Check to make sure that blade does not spin freely on motor shaft. Bend or straighten fan blades until the noise is minimal.
- Tighten fan motor mounts. Check motor alignment.
- Check installation for tightness, cover for tightness, and look over the entire unit for loose screws or washers.

## Unit drips water

### POSSIBLE CAUSES

- 1 Cabinet not properly leveled.
- 2 Condensate drain holes plugged.
- 3 Slinger-ring fan on condenser out of adjustment.
- 4 Extreme humidity.

### ACTION TO TAKE

- Adjust unit so that it has a slight downward pitch toward outside end (Maximum pitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  in.)
- Check and clean holes of any blockage.
- Check slinger-ring clearance from base pan. It should be  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. Too much clearance reduces water pickup.
- Sweating formations are normal under these conditions. Try to improve all seals and minimize window or door openings.



# How to build a brick-in-sand patio

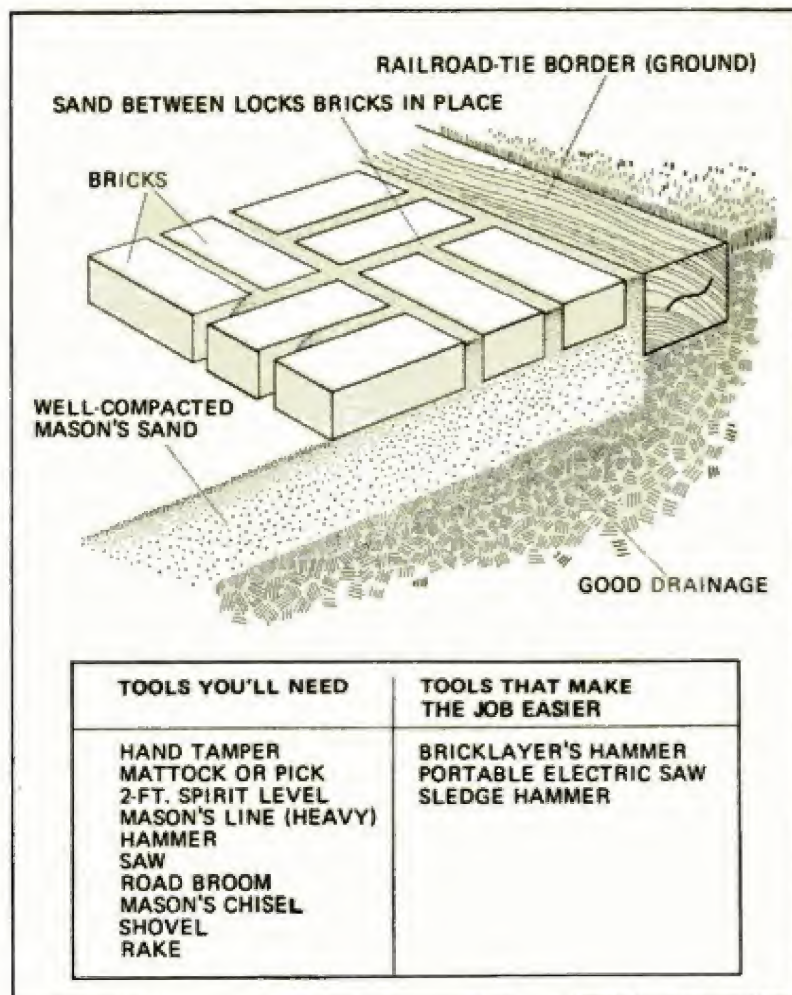
The dictionary says that a patio is a "walled-in courtyard open to the sky." But today, perhaps, that description doesn't exactly fit the typical American patio. Walled-in? Yes in some cases, with shrubbery or privacy screens. Open to the sky? Sure, but many homeowners add a roof to gain use during rainy weather. A better, and contemporary, description is that a patio is an outdoor living room.

Of the many types of patios you can choose from, a brick-in-sand patio—no matter which border you prefer—remains attractive throughout the years. Unlike concrete, it won't crack or settle, and because water will drain through rather than run off, it can be perfectly level. That's a plus when it comes to arranging your patio furniture. Still another advantage is that damaged bricks are easily replaced in short order.

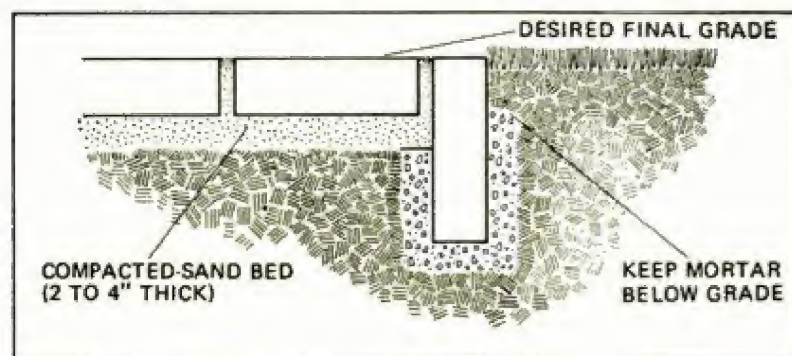
The bricks you choose can be either new or used. But for attractiveness, the latter hold an edge because of color variation and mortar stains. New common brick costs about the same as used brick.

Your first step is to select the patio site. Because it is considered as an outdoor family room, the patio should be placed near a door. This will prove to be convenient when you are entertaining or dining outside.

Borders are a personal choice; with railroad ties holding a slight edge among homeowners. You can buy ties from most large nurseries; also check your local classified directory under "Ties, Railroad." Though you can use new ties, used ones are more pleasing to the eye when placed stone-pocked side up. *Caution:* Be sure to protect your eyes and skin when working with creosoted railroad ties. ★★



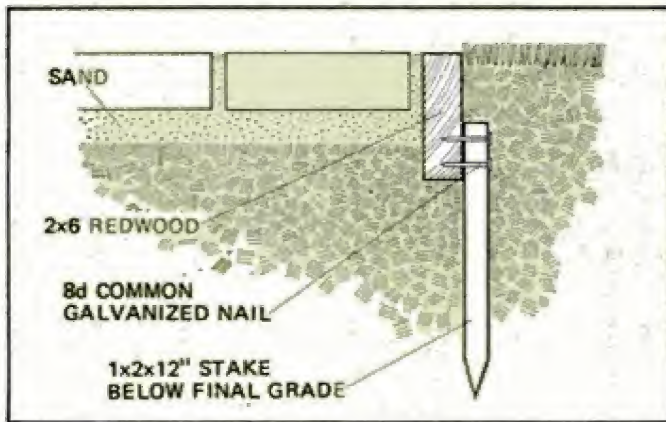
## Types of borders (grounds)



## Brick on end in mortar

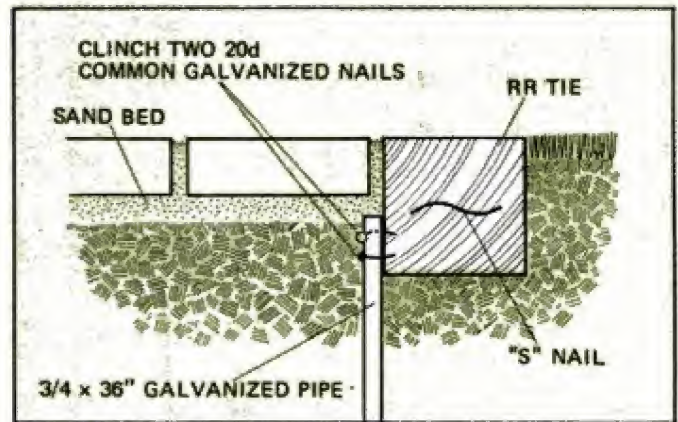
For a brick-on-end border, bricks are set in a mortar footing placed in a trench that's at least 6 in. wide and 10 in. deep. Pour the mortar in bottom of the trench and set the bricks in place. Tap the bricks gently to seat them in the mortar and check the row occasionally with a spirit level. Then place mortar on both sides of the bricks and tamp it firmly with a short length of 1x2 lumber.





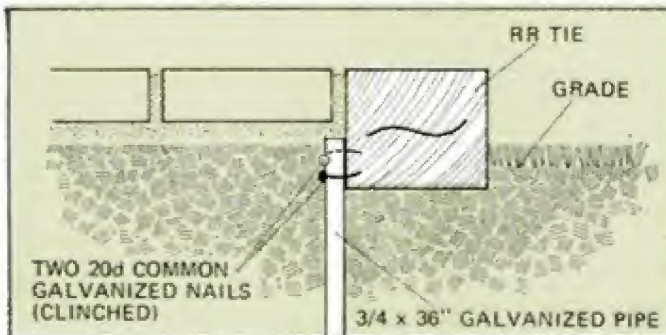
### 2x6 redwood border

This type of border needs less digging once grade has been determined. Set stake, establish grade at that point and nail 2x6 to stake. Level 2x6 and nail to second stake at other end. If the 2x6 hangs in air at either point, prop it with brick to desired level and backfill outside of border with soil. Gentle sloping of soil may also be required, or a second border (terrace) can be added.



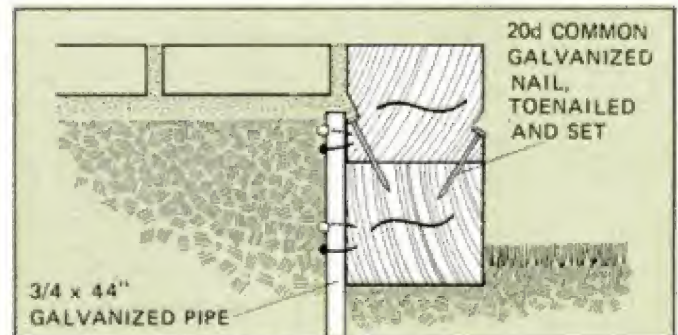
### Railroad ties flush with ground

Ties may be set in excavated trench to be flush with grade and inside area excavated for the sand bed. To prevent ties from "rocking," drive in galvanized pipes as shown and clinch a pair of 20d galvanized nails around pipe. Ties come in 6x8 and 7x9-in. sizes, each 8 ft. long. They're heavy—approximately 210 pounds each—so make certain you have help on the day you set them.



### Railroad ties above grade

For step effect, a single course of ties can be set in a very shallow trench. If ground slopes away sharply, ties may be stacked at low point two ties high. Again, a minimum of interior excavation is required, but you should dig down to assure good drainage before placing sand bed. Pipe "stabilizers" are a must here—every 4 ft.

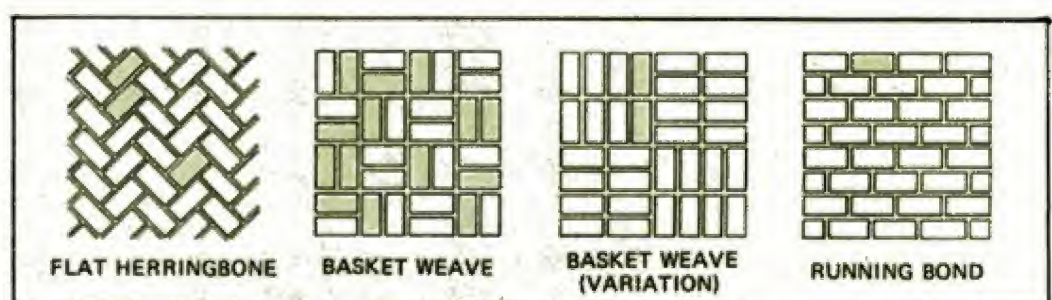


### Double course of ties

Notice that pipe stabilizer on this type border spans both ties with nails driven into each of them. Ties should also be toenailed at the sides using same-size nails. Since this wood is very dense, drilled pilot holes may be needed. Nailheads can be set flush with heavy nailset, but with a rustic effect, this is of minor concern.

### Choosing a pattern

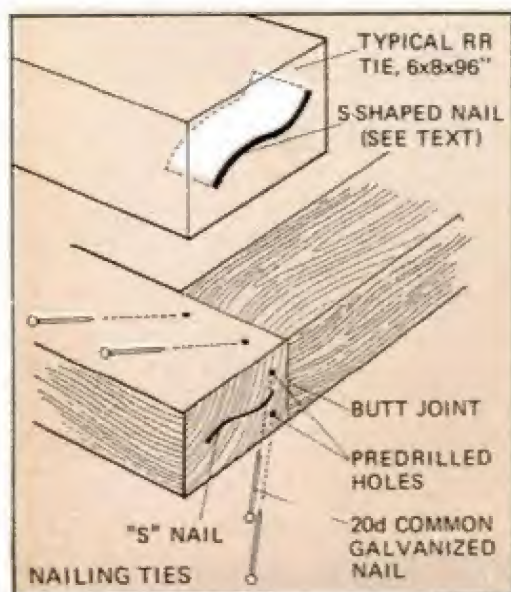
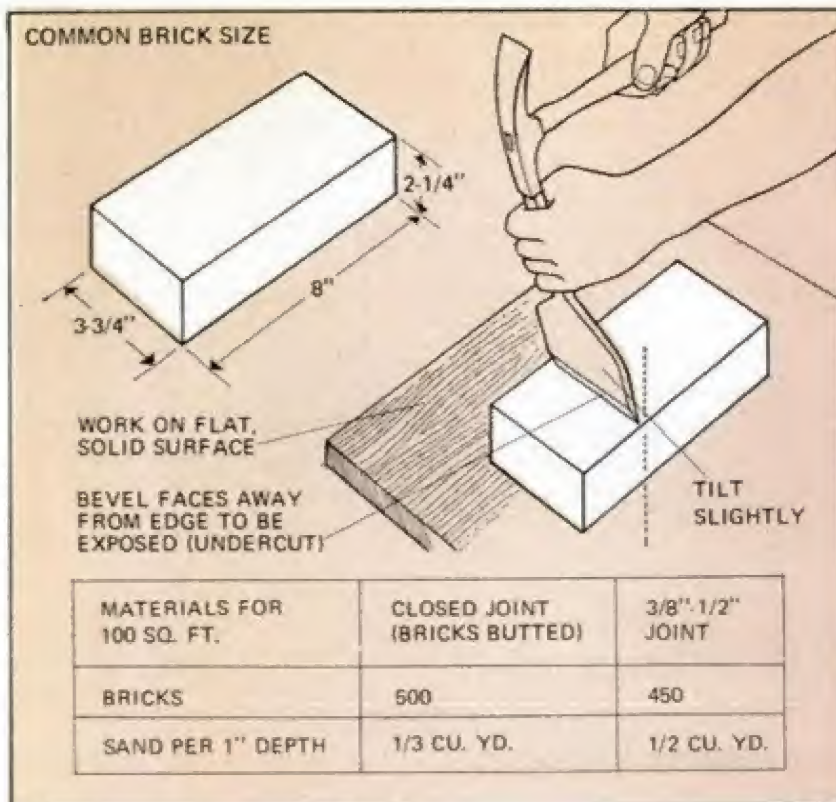
Four of the most popular brick patterns are shown at right. No matter which you choose, you'll have a bit of "make-up" (adjustment) to keep consistency of pattern.





## Working with brick

In addition to border materials, you'll need bricks, mason's sand, sharpened 1x2 stakes about a foot long and 8d common nails. Use chart at right to compute your needs for brick and sand. Quantities may vary slightly, but the chart is a guide for 100 sq. ft. of finished patio area. Bricks may be  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart or butted. To cut one with minimum waste, use bricklayer's hammer or a 20-oz. hammer and mason's wide chisel. Bricks should rest on a flat, solid surface. Until you get the "feel" of the tool, a score line around all sides will help. For safety, wear goggles and be sure there is no audience in the path of flying chips.



## Working with railroad ties

Railroad ties (left) can be cut with a two-man saw or a portable circular saw equipped with a coarse-set or rip blade. Since this saw blade will not cut fully through the tie, mark cutting lines on all four sides; then make the four cuts, flopping the tie after each pass of the saw. When you're cutting near one end of a tie, make certain that you remove the "S" nail driven into the end grain. In most cases, you can pry it out with an awl and pliers. **Caution:** Railroad ties are creosoted clear through, so wear goggles while you are cutting them. Butt the corner joints as shown; no need to miter them. To keep corner closed tightly, toenail joint with hefty nails.

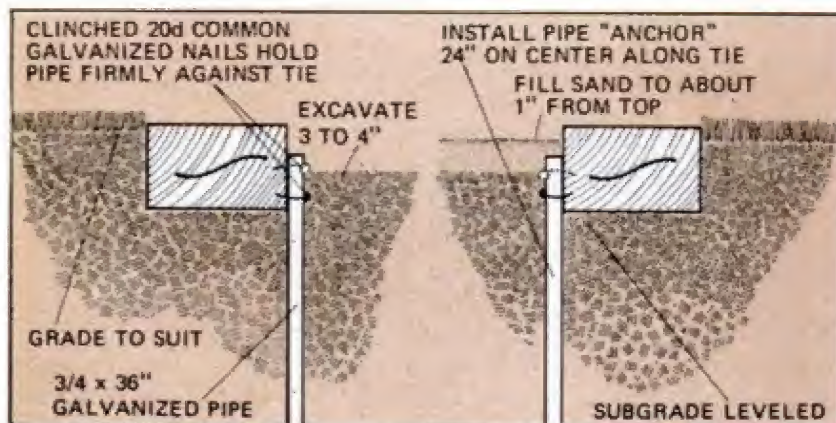
## Laying out your patio

After choosing your patio site, lay out the area by driving stakes at all points where the direction changes. Fasten a mason's line from stake to stake; then study the proposed patio before you put a spade into the earth. When you're satisfied with the shape and size, start excavating for the border. Level the trench as you go

from stake to stake using a straight 2x4 (no more than 12 ft. long) and a spirit level to transfer marks from one stake to another. Where stakes are over 12 ft. apart, drive in an intermediate stake for grade purposes. Tip: As you dig, try to throw soil well away to avoid having to move it a second time.

## Railroad-tie installation

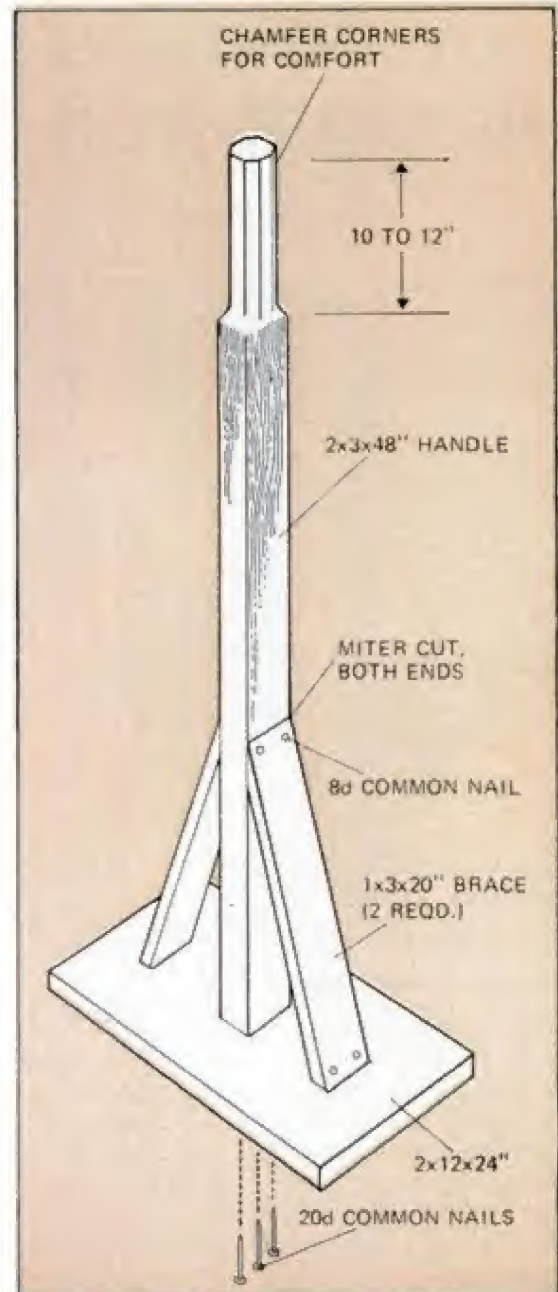
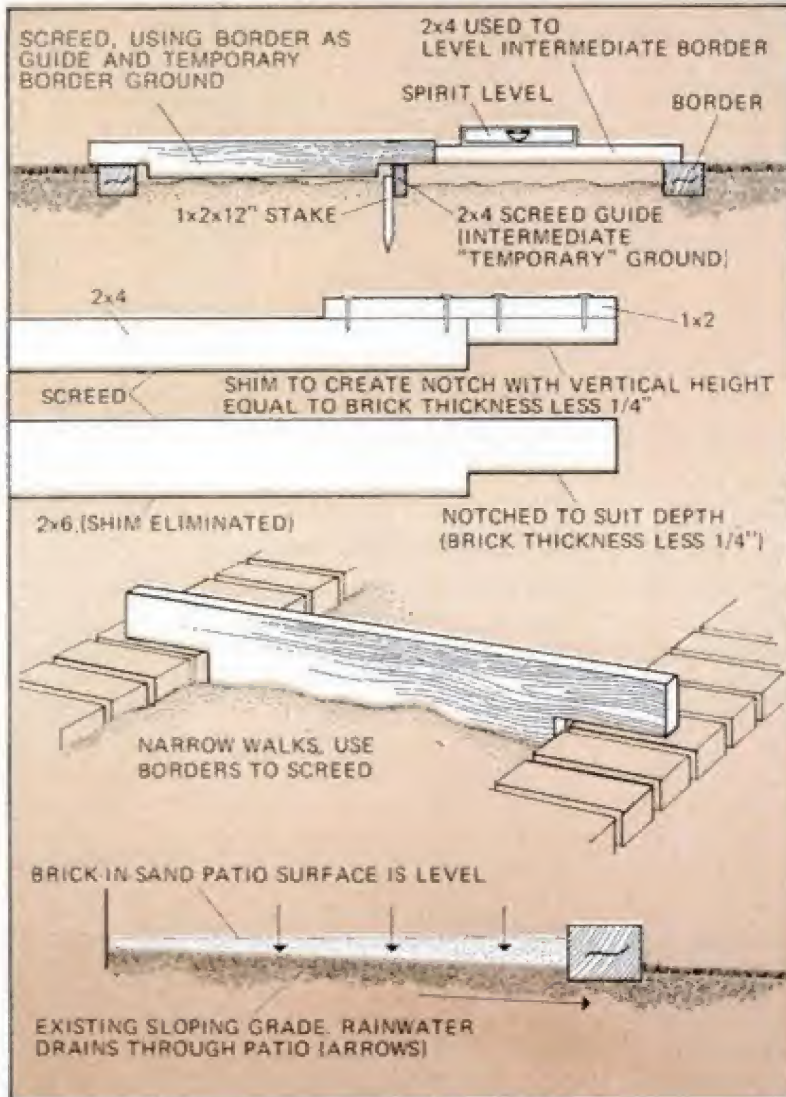
Once you have leveled the trench where the railroad ties will rest, stretch a mason's line to align ties as you place them. Use a pry bar with bricks for a fulcrum for easy lifting where you want to add soil to raise a tie. After leveling each tie, anchor it with 3-ft. lengths of galvanized pipe driven at 2-ft. intervals and attached as shown. Excavate area within border of ties and fill with mason's (mortar) sand. Thorough tamping is a must.





### Leveling the sand bed

When all borders are in place, the interior can be excavated. You should remove all topsoil to provide good drainage (see bottom drawing). Next, fill in this interior area with mason's (stone-free) sand to the top of the borders. After hand-tamping the backfill, screed the sand fairly level using either a 2x4 with shim or a notched 2x6 as shown below. On narrow walks, borders can be used for screeding. For wider spans, you must install a temporary, intermediate ground for screeding. To screed, strike the board side to side to drag sand ahead as you go. Fill low spots from the pile you're dragging ahead of the screed. Finally, compact sand with an overnight soaking from a lawn sprinkler.



### Shop-built tamper

Compacting the sand bed is essential, so you must have a tamper. While you may rent one from most tool-rental shops, you should consider making yours for permanent ownership. A tamper is handy in landscape work.

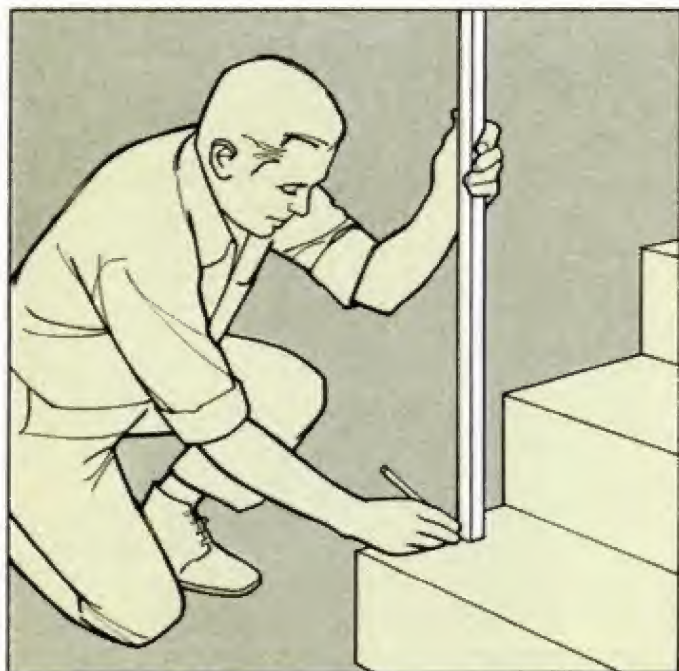
### Laying and sand-locking bricks

Start laying bricks in pattern of your choice. As you set each brick, tap it firmly with your hammer handle to "set" it level. After you have covered about 10 sq. ft., shovel on some mason's sand and brush it in place with a firm street broom to lock in the bricks. Repeat this step until all bricks are laid; then give the entire patio a thorough second sanding and brooming. Soak your patio for several hours with your lawn sprinkler. When it's fully dry, sand and broom it again to fill in voids, and

repeat until no voids develop in joints when patio is soaked. When patio is completely dry, clean it and, for aesthetic reasons, creosote the wood border. When using creosote, follow instructions on can and wear long-sleeved shirt, gloves and goggles. Save some sand and bricks until your patio is fully weathered. Further sanding may be required and, quite likely, some split bricks will need replacing. You'll have these answers within two months of the day you completed your patio.

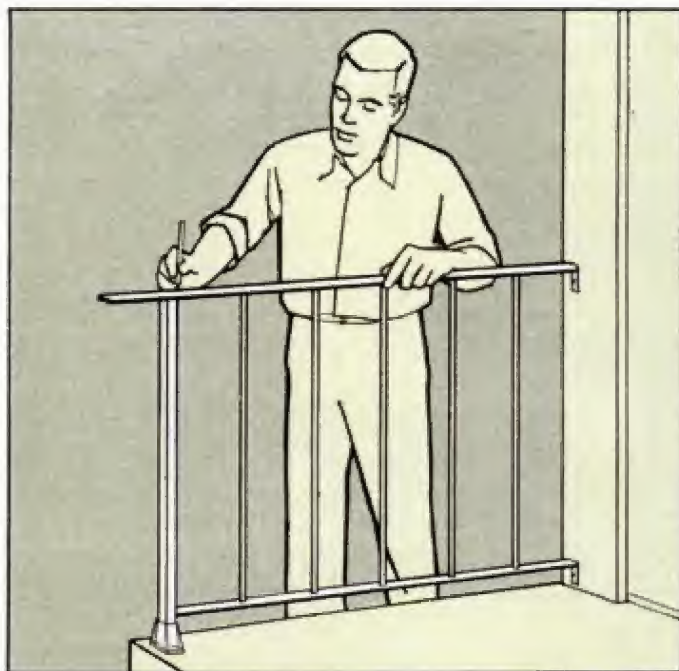


# How to install wrought-iron railings



## Locate newel posts first

Newel posts are used for end posts, corner posts and intermediate posts. The number required is determined by overall size of stoop. A stoop that is the same width as steps generally requires four posts. A stoop wider than the steps can require as many as six or more posts. Posts are anchored to masonry stoop and steps by flanges that are attached with expansion bolts inserted in predrilled holes. Concrete bit is used to drill holes.



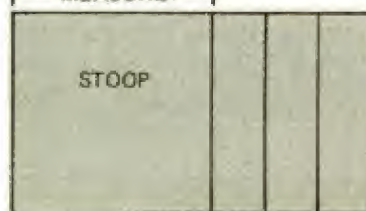
## Mark rail sections for length

After newel posts are in place, preassembled, adjustable rail sections are marked for length. Here in order to maintain uniform spacing of spindles, excess length is cut from each end of upper and lower rails. To cut the rails, you'll need a hacksaw. A vise will simplify holding. Any burred edges should be smoothed with a file so connectors insert easily. Railings are usually installed 31 in. high and even with tops of newel posts.

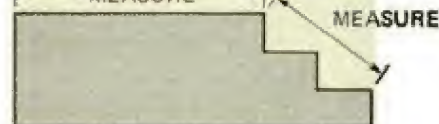
## To figure railings

Make a rough sketch of your stoop with measurements as shown at the right. To find number of 4 or 6-ft. rail sections you'll need, measure from house to edge of platform. To determine whether a 4 or 6-ft. rail section is needed for the steps, measure length of stairs, top to bottom as shown. To find number of newel posts required, figure one for each corner of platform, one each for top and bottom of stairs. If railings consist of more than one section, add one post for each added section.

← MEASURE →



← MEASURE →



### If platform is:

- 3 ft. or less
- 3 ft. on both sides
- 4 ft. or less
- 6 ft. or less
- 8 ft. or less
- 10 ft. or less

### Order:

- One 4-ft. section (cut down)
- One 6-ft. section (cut in half)
- One 4-ft. section
- One 6-ft. section
- Two 4-ft. sections
- Two 6-ft. sections (cut down)





### Install upper rail sections first

Rail sections are attached to newel posts with adjustable connectors that require no drilling. Each connector slides inside upper and lower rails and is tightened by a setscrew. Rail sections come in 4 and 6-ft. lengths and require support posts between sections. Same connectors attach sections to house. Before drilling holes, be sure to level railing. If it's to be attached to wood, use regular screws; if to masonry, bolts in expansion anchors.

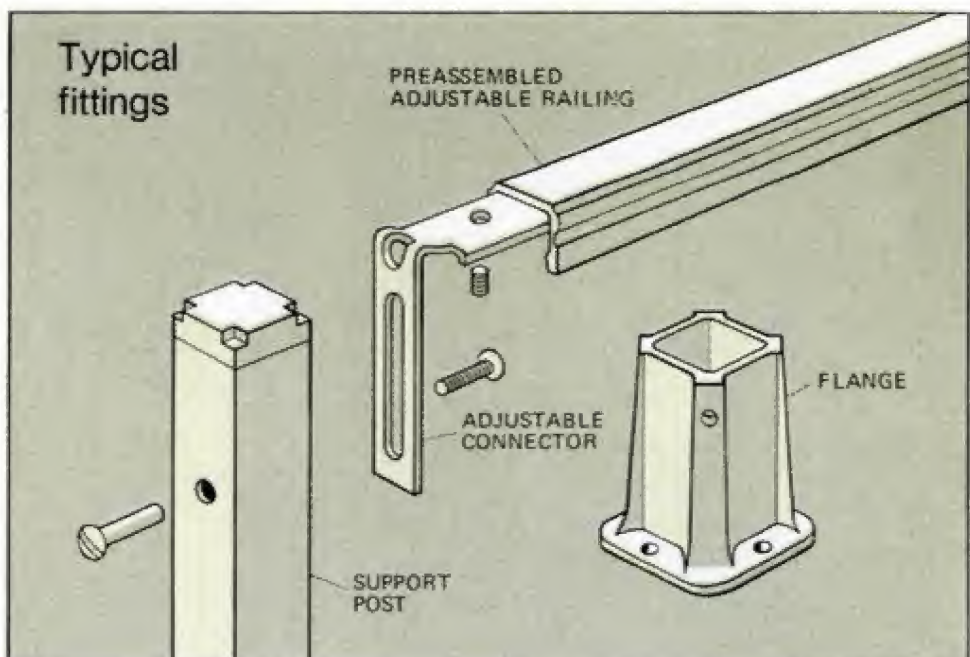


### Rail sections bent to suit steps

Preassembled rail sections adjust to any stair slope. To bend, put foot on lower rail and push forward on top rail to suit stair pitch. Spindles are generally electrically fused to top and bottom rails to make railing stronger than welded ironwork. Connectors are bent to same angle as rail section to join the section to top and bottom newel posts. Extra wrought-iron scrolls, called lamb's tongue and finial, are available for newel posts at bottom step.

### Four basic parts

Only four basic parts are required to add a wrought-iron railing to any porch or stoop.—rail section, support post, adjustable connector and flange. Support (newel) posts are 1½ in. square, 35 and 48 in. high. Posts fit into flanges, which are attached with setscrews; flanges are anchored to wood or masonry with screws or expansion bolts. Adjustable connectors join rail sections to posts like an Erector set. Complete railings are made up of 4 and 6-ft. sections, joined end to end with a post between.

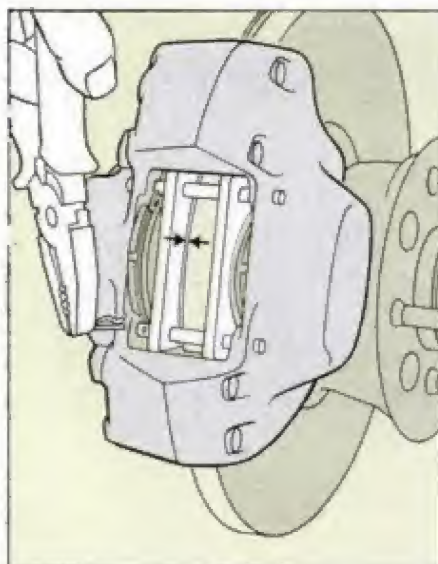




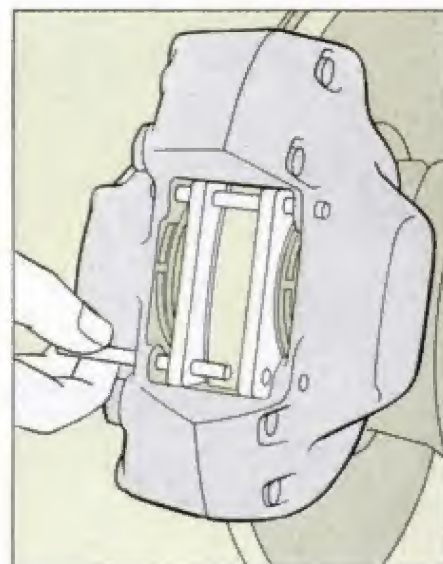
# How to replace disc-brake pads

Replacing disc-brake pads is like putting two pieces of bread in a toaster. You pop out the two worn pads and pop in two new ones. Of course, like any job on your car you tackle yourself, the first time is the hardest—you don't know if you have all the right tools, and, if unfamiliar with replacement parts that you've bought, whether you've been sold the right ones!

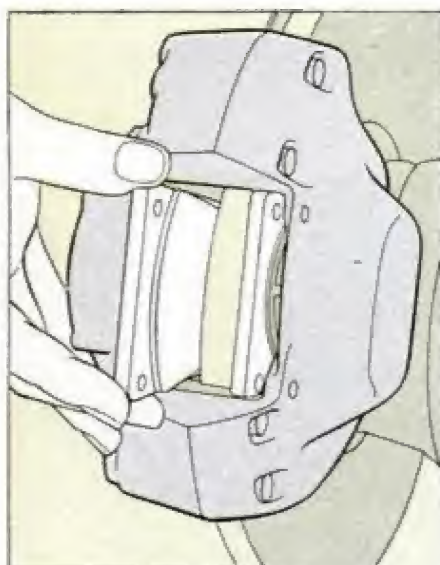
But don't hesitate; this job really is easy. Remove each wheel with a disc brake so you can check the remaining thickness of friction material on the pad. Replacement thickness is  $1/16$  to  $1/8$  inch. If you do need new pads, follow these simple steps to put them in.



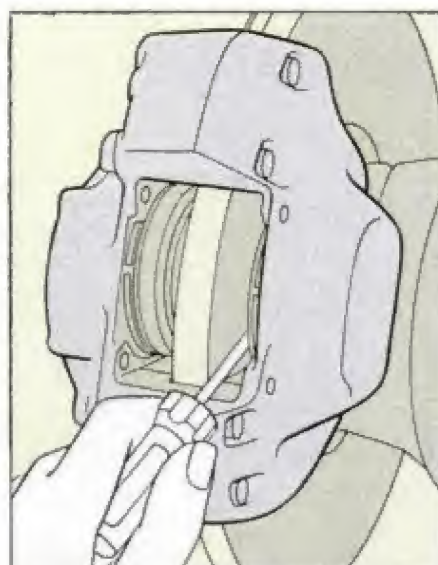
**1** The stationary housing that surrounds the rotating brake disc is called the brake caliper. In this are pistons that push against the brake pads when you step on the brake. These pads squeeze the disc to prevent it from turning. The thickness of the inboard pad here is down to  $1/16$ th inch.



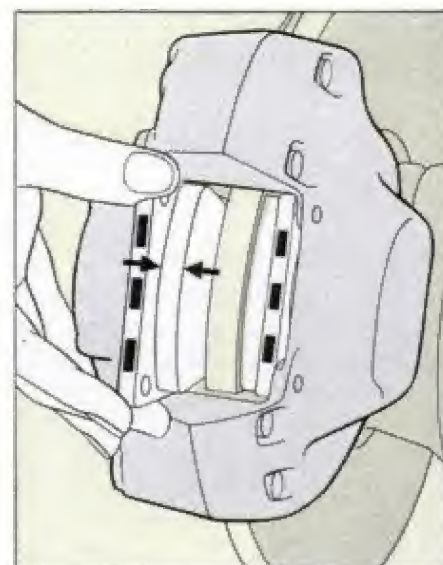
**2** Friction surface of pad is integral with a backing plate held in place by two guide pins. After removing hairpin-shaped locking clips (as in step 1) pull guide pins out. (Also remove the damper springs if your brakes use them.) This leaves inboard and outboard disc-brake pads free for removal.



**3** Remove both pads by sliding them straight out. If you can't get a good grip, get it with a pair of locking pliers and pull them out that way. With both pads out, the pistons and their surrounding rubber boots will be exposed. Check that the boots are in good condition. They keep fluid in.



**4** Pistons have to be pushed back into the calipers to make room for the new, thicker pads. You can use a screwdriver shank as a lever, but be sure to wrap the tip so you don't scratch the disc. Pushing back the piston forces hydraulic fluid into the master cylinder. Catch any overflow.



**5** After pistons are pushed back, which usually can be done without opening bleeder nipples on calipers, there is room to slide the new pads into place. Here the new outboard pad is in place and the inboard pad is being installed. That's it! Use brake gently for a while to seat pads.

ROY GRINNELL



# Tandem 'two-holer' you can fly from either seat



Rear-folding wings make ship easily trailerable on its own wheels. The tail wheel is fitted with a tow bar to fit standard ball-type bumper hitch on car for road-towing.

Patterned after military-style flight trainers, this trim little two-seater features dual controls, folding wings, simple construction and low cost.

by Sheldon M. Gallager  
and Howard Levy

Tony Spezio spells it slightly differently, but his homebuilt DAL-1 "Tuholer" is a true two-holer just the same—two cockpits in tandem, each equipped with complete flight controls. The dual-control feature makes the craft ideal for the beginning builder who wants to try his new wings under the guidance of an experienced pilot or for two buddy pilots who enjoy flying together. In fact, PM has received many requests for just such a small, light, easy-to-build two-place training plane, and the DAL-1 fills the bill nicely. It's fully approved by the FAA in the experimental class and has won a good-design award from the Experimental Aircraft Assn. At

PHOTOS BY HOWARD LEVY

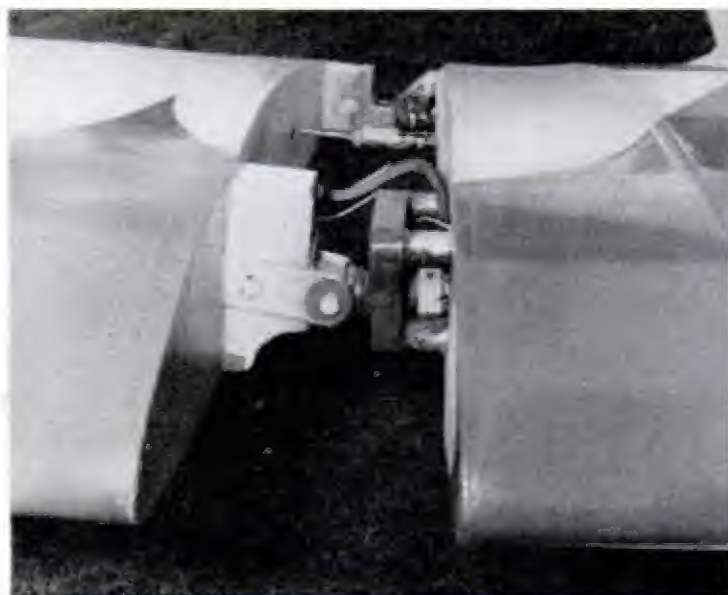




A black and white photograph showing the instrument panel of a vehicle. The panel features several analog gauges, including a speedometer and a tachometer, and a steering wheel is visible in the foreground. The image is oriented vertically, with the instrument panel at the top and the steering wheel at the bottom.



**Ship is so light** the tail can be easily lifted by one person (left) for attaching tow bar to car hitch for trailering. How wings fold is shown in photos below. After main latch bolt is released, wing is turned vertically on two-way pivot, then swung back against side of fuselage. Slot exposing wing-fold linkage is covered with removable, snap-in fairing strips. Entire job takes less than 10 minutes.





last count, 21 copies have already been successfully built and flown from Spezio's plans, and others are under construction.

The DAL-1 combines the best of two worlds: While functionally patterned after the simplicity and easy handling of a military flight trainer, it also offers the esthetic appeal of a sleek, racy sport plane. Those who recall the classy little midget Gee Bee racer of the 30s will note certain similarities—the resemblance isn't accidental. Spezio, an engineering technician for the FAA, had a loving feeling for the tiny Gee Bee and incorporated some of its trim appearance into his own creation. Best of all, perhaps, are the ship's low construction cost—about \$800—and its trailerability to and from nearby airports. Rear-folding wings make the DAL-1 easily towable on its own wheels, thus saving hangar and tie-down fees and enabling Spezio to garage his plane at home for spare-time tinkering on it right in his own back yard.

The DAL-1 is powered by a 125-hp Lycoming O-290G-4, a ground engine converted to aircraft use. This gives the ship a maximum speed of 152 mph, a cruising speed of 128 mph and a range of 400 miles. Rate of climb is a zippy 2000 feet per minute, with a service ceiling of 12,000 feet. The craft lands at as little as 40 mph and in a run of only 170 feet. Takeoff run is 160 feet. The landing gear is fixed to simplify construction, but is streamlined with faired struts and wheel pants to minimize drag.

The fuselage and tail assembly are of tubular steel, while the wings are built up from spruce spars and ribs—much like the balsawood construction on model planes. The entire ship is covered with a skin of cotton fabric. Overall length is 18 feet, 3 inches, with a wingspan of 24 feet, 9 inches, a wing chord of 5 feet and a height of 54 inches. Empty weight is 810 pounds; gross, 1400. One unusual touch for a low-wing monoplane is the use of wing struts running diagonally from the fuselage to points outboard of the wing-fold pivots. The struts add extra bracing and lessen strain on the pivot linkages. The ends are detachable to permit the wings to fold for towing or storing the craft.

Plans for the Tuholer are \$40 and include 33 sheets of construction details, full-size wing-rib patterns and 22 assembly photos. These are available from Tony's wife, Dorothy Spezio, 211 Dennis Drive, Absecon Heights, N. J. 08201. ★ ★ ★

Some of the many Tuholers built from Spezio's plans are shown below. Note that plane can be flown from front seat (top photo) or rear one (second from top) depending on pilot's preference and handling characteristics. Also note slight differences in fuselage configuration. Some builders keep line from rear headrest to tail straight, as in prototype, while others prefer sweeping dip, as in bottom photo.





# Do these stylish haulers

by Michael Lamm

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

A nationwide survey based on 1,300,000 owner-driven miles.

There's a boom in pickups right now—large ones, small ones, and in between. While the Japanese imports battle it out in the mini range, and while there's no end of rugged full-sized standard pickups to choose from, only two automakers offer contenders in what we might call the "coupe pickup" class: Ford and Chevrolet.

It's easy to see why people buy these vehicles. Ford's Ranchero combines the riding qualities and appearance of a coupe with the workhorse stamina and versatility of a true pickup. So, too, does the El Camino.

The Ford/Chevrolet feud has raged for decades, so the choice of a Ranchero over an El Camino (or vice-

*(Please turn to page 90)*



**Versatility** and good looks rank highest as reasons for buying both the Ranchero and El Camino. Ranchero offers six-cylinder engine, but most people go for 400-c.i.d. V8.



# PM OWNERS REPORT: **CHEVROLET EL CAMINO** really lead double lives?

A nationwide survey based on 1,400,000 owner-driven miles.

**A**n Ohio service station mechanic explained that he bought his El Camino "because it looks so good, and it's much safer for carrying loads than a station wagon."

El Camino owners find their pickups handy, versatile vehicles, and they use them for the same duties as Ranchero owners: work, recreation and simply as cars. "It does the job of two units," avers an Ohio builder, "because it rides and handles as well as a sedan and yet will haul good-sized loads."

A Michigan plumber noted: "I use it for work but also find it excellent for recreation—snowmobiling and motorcycling. My only complaint is that the neighbors

*(Please turn to page 91)*



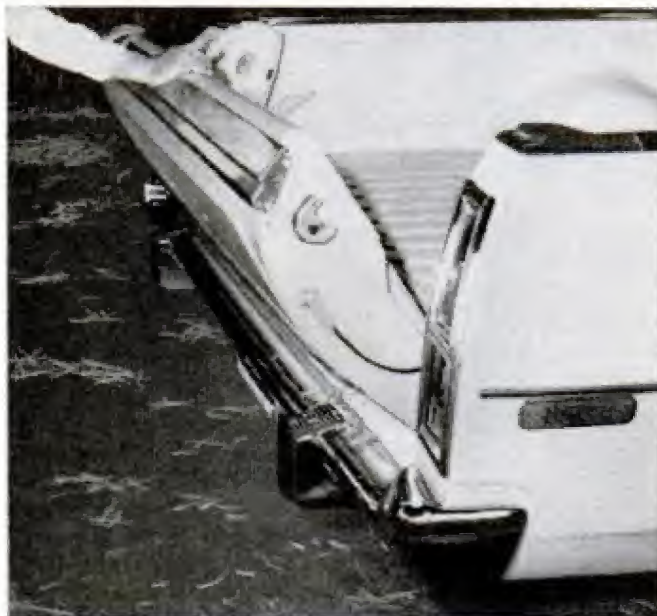
**Sharp styling** and coupe-like appearance draw high praise from El Camino owners. Magish wheel covers are made of rubber. There's no Six; owners opt for 350 V8 over the 307.



## FORD RANCHERO

*(Continued from page 88)*

**'Does most everything a real pickup will do, but rides and handles like a luxury car and looks great.'**



Nearly vertical tailgate makes it easier to carry big boxes and camper shells. Some owners grumbled about poor vision to rear sides but liked hold-downs inside bed. A few suggested incorporating two-way tailgate.

versa) becomes largely a matter of emotion. Dimensions, load capacity, and prices fall within fractions of each other. The Ranchero offers a Six and El Camino doesn't, but hardly anyone buys one of these vehicles with a six-cylinder engine anyway, so it's almost academic. The Ranchero's heritage is strictly Torino; the El Camino's pure Chevelle.

Here are some typical answers to our why-did-you-buy-a-Ranchero question: A Florida steelworker said, "I'd already used up six Rancheros since the first one came out in 1957, so why not another?" An Illinois construction superintendent: "I bought mine for work and camping, and I think it looks better than an El Camino." An Ohio oiler: "Needed something the wife would drive and could use as a second car." "I need it to do light hauling, and it rides and drives like an auto," wrote a Tennessee industrial foreman. Many of our respondents mentioned that they particularly liked the Ranchero's appearance. "It's just a good-looking car," affirmed an Indiana factory worker.

Here are some specific praises owners had for their Rancheros: "Does most everything a real pickup will do, but rides and handles like a luxury car and looks great." "Am especially happy with the riding qualities." "Appearance seems to catch the eye of others as well as myself." "My wife would rather drive the Ranchero than our LTD." "Holds the road better than most medium-sized cars." "It's the best-handling American car I've driven—feels more like a sports car than a pickup."

How about complaints? As with most newer U.S. cars, poor gas mileage headed the list of grumbles. A Missouri computer technician sums it up for many owners by saying, "I have an opinion about the anti-pollution equipment on *all* 1973 cars. I previously owned a 1969 Ranchero with the identical engine and options and got 15-17 mpg (as against 10-12 for this one). It seems to me that I'm now burning 67 percent more gas, defeating the intended purpose of the smog equipment by burning up the earth's energy supply more quickly, plus costing me more money."

What changes would Ranchero owners

*(Please turn to page 92)*



## CHEVROLET EL CAMINO

*(Continued from page 89)*

**'Passengers say it rides better than a car—wife likes to drive it better than our Pontiac. So do I.'**



**El Camino's canted tailgate, sweeping bed walls make it hard to find camper shells and tool boxes that fit. The 46-inch width between wheelhouses won't let 4-foot plywood lie flat. Pillars again block rear visibility.**

are always borrowing it for odd jobs." A Washington fruit grower commented: "I like the air shocks for carrying heavy loads. I grow and pack my own fruit and use the El Camino in all my work. It rides as well as the average car but will haul quite a load."

Here's a sampling of specific praises for the El Camino: "Ride and handling qualities are excellent with the heavy-duty suspension." "Passengers say it rides better than a car—wife likes to drive it better than our Pontiac. P.S.—So do I!" "Smart styling." "I had two El Caminos before—a 1965 and 1969—and liked them very much, same as this one." "Good resale value." "Easy to load and unload." "Good brakes, performance, ride and looks." "Just enough truck but not too much." "Ideal for going to and from work, for carrying my bird dogs, and good as a second car."

What faults did owners find with the El Camino? A sizable portion felt that workmanship wasn't up to acceptable standards. Fully 67.6 percent rated workmanship average to poor. A Michigan lineman noted, "It could be a beautiful car if they would work all the bugs out of it." Complaints centered on thin and rough paint, sloppy carpeting, misaligned panels, leaks and whistles around windows and similar items. They're not serious things, but are noticeable enough to annoy owners.

The complaint heard next-most-often centered on poor gas mileage, but no need to dwell on that *again*. All 1973 cars seem to suffer, and owners lay the blame squarely on 1973 antipollution equipment.

In the why-don't-they department, we got these suggestions from owners: "I do construction work and find the 46 inches between wheelhouses is just 2½ inches too narrow to lay a 4-foot plywood board flat in the bed. Why can't the factory add just 2½ more inches to the width back there?" "Can't they hide those tailgate hinges somehow—they look goofy." "The windows need frames around them for extra strength. The way they are now the windows whistle and it rains in when I crack them for ventilation." "Reposition the window crank handles." "Raise the roof 2-3 inches." "Front and rear bumpers should

*(Please turn to page 93)*



**'I have to let smoke out by opening the side window, and that's noisy and lets the rain in.'**

## **FORD RANCHERO**

*(Continued from page 90)*

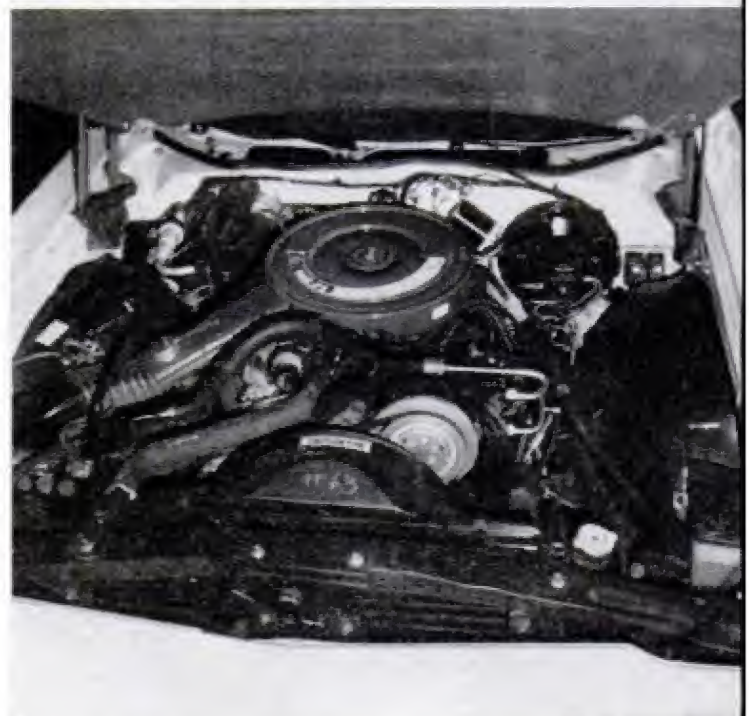
suggest? "Move the spare to give more luggage space." "Spare makes seat too upright." "If they'd make the rear pillars thinner, it would be easier to see out the back window." "Improve the ventilation or add a vent wing, because as it is now, I have to let smoke out by opening the side window, and that's noisy and lets the rain in." "Needs built-in hooks behind seat to accommodate clothes rod." "Bigger glove compartment." "The front bumper sticks out too far."

How do owners rate comfort? "Very comfortable, and I especially like the air-conditioning." "No complaints from passengers, but I think the seatback leans too far back, and there's no adjustment." "Fresh air should feed through the heater without having to turn on the blower." "After owning a rough-riding Mach I Mustang, the Ranchero is very comfortable." "I'm glad I picked the Ranchero over standard pickups—much less noise, and it rides like a car." "Very comfortable, but the windows don't seal properly, and to prevent them from rattling, you have to roll them all the way down before you roll them up again."

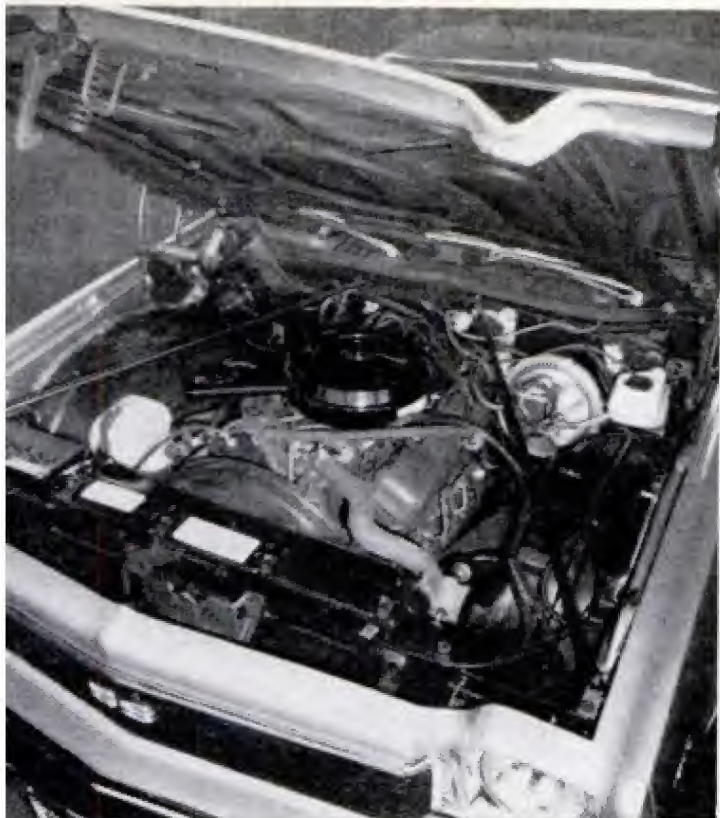
Not surprisingly, both Ranchero and El Camino owners put their pickups to nearly the same uses: work, recreation and simply driving them as another car. On the average, most owners use their Rancheros more for recreation and simple driving than for work. Certain types of professionals can

*(Please turn to page 94)*

Ranchero's spare and jack bolt behind passenger's seat, leaving not enough lockable storage space, say some. Seatback angle also didn't please everyone, but there was no agreement whether it's too steep or too recumbent. Ranchero offers choice of five engine displacements. Poor gas mileage loomed as a major complaint, as with all 1973 cars, and a high percentage of owners blamed antismog equipment for sluggish performance plus gas guzzling.







**A number of owners suggested less body tuck so the sides get less mud spatter and fewer nicks from stones.**

## **CHEVROLET EL CAMINO**

*(Continued from page 91)*



**Optional swivel front seats** in El Camino are handy idea borrowed from Monte Carlo. Here again, spare and tools fit behind seats, but El Camino has deep storage bin behind driver's seat. This can accept smaller valuables like cameras. Rimless windows tend to whistle and leak in both pickups, a condition owners feel might easily be cured with vent wings and frames. The 350 engine comes with two or four-barrel carb; all El Camino V8s operate on regular fuel.

be designed so they conform to the looks of the car."

A number of owners also suggested less body tuck along the rockers so the sides get less mud spatter and fewer nicks from flying stones. Cargo-bed drainage seems to be a minor problem (as in all pickups). And some of the owners found that the El Camino's doors were both too long and too heavy.

The swivel seats (optional) make entry and exit easier, especially with the relatively low roof, but they also leave this strictly a two-passenger vehicle. El Camino and Ranchero owners grumbled about spare-tire and jack locations, wishing that these items could be hidden somewhere else (but where?) so the space behind the seats might be used for personal cargo.

Everyone commented favorably on the El Camino's general comfort and good riding qualities. Quite a few mentioned the pneumatic rear-suspension levelers, saying they really helped with heavy loads. Unloaded, though, both the El Camino and Ranchero tended to lose traction on ice and snow.

The El Camino uses coil springs all around, while the Ranchero has conventional leaf springs in the back. Both pickups offer optional heavy-duty and performance suspension packages plus equipment for trailer towing.

As in the Ranchero, owners complained of reduced rear vision due to the overly

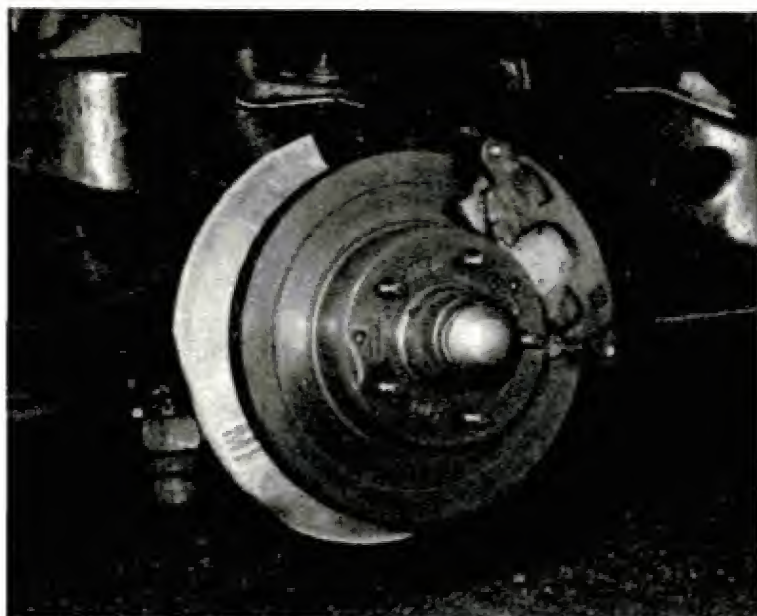
*(Please turn to page 95)*



## FORD RANCHERO

(Continued from page 92)

**'I am a horseshoer; find the Ranchero most convenient.'**



Ranchero and El Camino both make front disc brakes standard, backed by finned rear drums for greater fade resistance. Discs are much less affected by water; thus make sense for soggy service on ranches and farms.

use pickups of this type exclusively for business: contractors, welders, salesmen of various sorts, and so on. More normally, the owner tends to have a bit of acreage somewhere or a business that lends itself to occasional light hauling—filling-station owners, repairmen, painters, and at least one horseshoer in New Jersey.

Quite a number of owners mentioned hauling recreational equipment—not so much campers but skis, snowmobiles, motorcycles, bikes, hunting and fishing gear, boats, small trailers and surfboards. One Air Force captain says he uses his Ranchero to carry his flying and parachuting paraphernalia.

Owners rated the Ranchero's quality of workmanship quite high, and several of them praised such small touches as tie-downs in the bed and the nearly vertical tailgate.

Asked whether they'd buy another, 83.5 percent said yes, and a West Virginia coal miner notes, "If everyone owned a Ranchero they would never want any other kind of pickup truck." ★ ★ ★

## Summary of 1973 Ford Ranchero Owners Reports\*

Total miles driven .....1,292,081

### Engines:

250-cu.-in. Six	0.4%
302-cu.-in. V8	35.2
351-cu.-in. V8	3.3
400-cu.-in. V8	57.8
429-cu.-in. V8	3.3

### Transmissions:

Automatic	98.5%
Three-speed manual	0.7
Four-speed manual	0.7

### Series:

Ranchero 500	51.2%
Ranchero GT	36.5
Ranchero Squire	12.3

### Average miles per gallon:

250-cu.-in. Six, not enough replies	
302-cu.-in. V8: local driving	11.0
long trips	13.3
351-cu.-in. V8, not enough replies	
400-cu.-in. V8: local driving	10.4
long trips	12.5
429-cu.-in. V8, not enough replies	

### Why the Ranchero?

Pickup feature	48.1%
Styling	32.8
Owned one before	11.6
Comfort	7.1

### Specific likes:

Handling	46.5%
Styling	43.3
Comfort	32.2

Ride	31.8
Power	13.5
Hauling ability	10.2

### Specific dislikes:

Poor gas mileage	26.0%
Emission control devices	9.9
Poor rear vision	6.5
Poor workmanship	5.0

### Types of work used for:

Hauling	26.9%
Construction	14.4
Farming	9.3
Commuting	7.4
On-the-road selling	6.0

### Types of recreation used for:

Fishing	32.3%
Traveling	26.0
Hunting	24.0
Camping	22.9
Boating	10.4

### Number of vehicles owned:

Ranchero only	19.4%
Two vehicles	58.1
Three vehicles	15.8
Four or more vehicles	6.9

### Other makes of vehicles owned:

Ford	23.7%
Chevrolet	10.3
Buick	10.3
Oldsmobile	9.4
Mercury	8.9
Ford truck	7.1

### Comfort opinion:

Good to excellent	92.4%
Average to poor	7.6

### Workmanship opinion:

Good to excellent	70.6%
Average to poor	29.4

### Had any mechanical trouble?

No	58.5%
Yes	41.5

### What type of trouble?

Carburetor	17.5%
Transmission	12.3
Hard starting	7.0

### Did you repair it yourself?

No	91.2%
Yes	8.8

### Dealer repairs satisfactory?

Yes	59.4%
No	40.6%

### What changes would you like?

Better rear vision	15.5%
Better gas mileage	8.8
Different styling	7.1
Seatback angle	6.7
Remove smog equipment	5.0

### Age distribution of owners:

15-29 years	19.9%
30-49 years	42.6
50-plus	37.4

### Would you buy another Ranchero?

Yes	83.5%
No	16.5

\*Percentages might not equal 100% due to rounding or insufficient data.



## (Continued from page 93)

A black and white photograph showing a hand holding a license plate. The license plate is rectangular and features the word "CHASE" in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters at the top. Below "CHASE" is the word "CHEVROLET" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the plate is the word "STOCKTON" in a bold, sans-serif font. The plate is being held in front of a dark, textured surface, possibly the rear of a vehicle. A hand is visible on the right side of the frame, holding the bottom edge of the plate. The hand is wearing a dark, patterned sleeve. The background is dark and out of focus.

large and wing-like pillars. Another nagging complaint centered on the El Camino's tail-light wiring plugs. Snow and ice tossed up from the rear tires builds up here, unplugs the jacks, and renders El Caminos unlighted from behind. "It takes about an hour to chisel the ice out of this area and replug the lights," says a Colorado construction engineer.

"Most people can't tell it has an open bed until they get up close," remarks a California court clerk. "It's sporty and has class and style," echoes an Arizona truck broker. "Little maintenance in 12,000 miles except for washes and sparkplugs," notes a Texas rancher. And a Texas lawyer sums up his feelings this way: "I am really high on this vehicle. It does the light hauling I require, and for heavy purposes it can handle up to two tons in a trailer. It is very easy to drive, and the El Camino's ride is equal to that of any automobile. As for handling—it's way above the standard pickup."

To our question, "Would you buy another El Camino," 77.2 percent said yes. ★★

Total miles driven . . . . . 1,392,211

<b>Specific dislikes:</b>	
Poor workmanship .....	20.9%
Poor gas mileage .....	18.7
Water entry in rain .....	10.1
Lack of power .....	7.8
Styling .....	5.6

<b>Types of work used for:</b>	
Hauling .....	40.4%
Commuting .....	16.1
Construction .....	15.2
Farming .....	10.9

<b>Types of recreation used for:</b>	
Traveling .....	27.6%
Camping .....	27.6
Fishing .....	26.6
Hunting .....	24.0
Boating .....	15.6

<b>Number of vehicles owned:</b>	
El Camino only	21.1%
Two vehicles	60.0
Three vehicles	10.0
Four or more vehicles	8.9

<b>Other makes of vehicles owned:</b>	
Chevrolet	36.7%
Oldsmobile	13.6
Pontiac	10.9
Buick	10.0
Chevrolet truck	9.0
Ford	6.8

**Comfort opinion:**  
 Good to excellent ..... 90.0%  
 Average to poor ..... 10.0%

<b>Had any mechanical trouble?</b>	
Yes .....	52.9%
No .....	47.1

**Did you repair it yourself?**

No .....	91.7%
Yes .....	8.3

What changes would you like?	
Different styling .....	9.3%
More headroom .....	7.2
More legroom .....	7.2
Better workmanship .....	6.8
Add vent windows .....	5.9

**Would you buy another El Camino?**

Yes .....	77.2%
No .....	22.8

\*Percentages might not equal 100% due to rounding or insufficient data.



# An Early American hutch-table you can build

When not in use as a dining table, it serves as a handsome wall table or chair and quickly converts to give extra tabletop space when you need it.

---

by Harry Wicks  
WORKSHOP EDITOR

When a chair-table like that seen on the facing page has storage area below the top, it is usually—for obvious reasons—called a hutch-table. Technically it's a trestle table, say antiques experts.

The hutch-table shown appeared in *Simulated Beams and Paneling Make a World of Difference* (page 112, April '72 *PM*). Ever since readers spotted it in this living-room setting, we have been receiving scores of letters asking for plans to duplicate it. Thus we returned to the workshop for a second go-around on the project and here's the result. (The original was built about 16 years ago.)

Besides its charm, a hutch-table is particularly practical. When it's not needed as a table, you can position it against a wall to serve as a decorator piece fitted with a lamp or seat cushion.

Our experience has proven this table to be one of the most practical—and treasured—pieces in our home. Since it is so easy to flip down the "back" to create a table, it is frequently used for buffet parties or whenever the kids have a gang in on a rainy afternoon. Because it is constructed in the "primitive" Early American style—distressed and antiqued—the table looks as good as, if not better than, it did new. Aging has just added to the patina of the wood and nicks and scratches have simply been filled with a quality stain-concealer.

**Selecting materials.** For best results, use either Idaho, eastern or sugar pine to make the table. However, if you have the desire, and confidence in your cabinetry skills, there's no reason not to make it of cherry, walnut or any other fine hardwood. For economy, you may prefer to use lower-cost knotty pine. (In my opinion this is a mistake over the long pull because the material is more frustrating to work with, and stands a better-than-average chance of checking and splitting over a period of time in a heated home.) But, if you do select such material, lay out the various parts carefully. Do not have knots fall along a line where cutting and shaping will occur. When you're rounding those corners, there's a strong possibility of knots falling out entirely.

**Edge-gluing.** Because of the width of the bench sides, top and shelves (E), these parts are cut from glued-up stock. Use stock no wider than 4 in. to avoid any chance of warpage or cupping—if that were to happen to the cabinet, it could stop the drawers from sliding. Professionals alternate the annular rings of the boards being edge-glued as shown in the sketch on page 190.

Edges to be joined must be perfectly square. If desired, you can have the boards pushed through a planer at your lumberyard mill for a slight charge. Use glue and

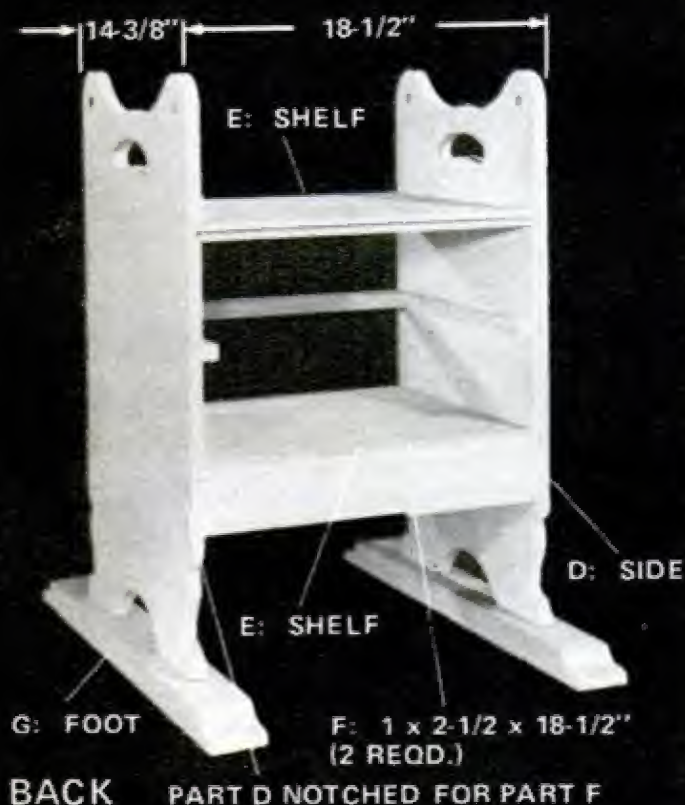
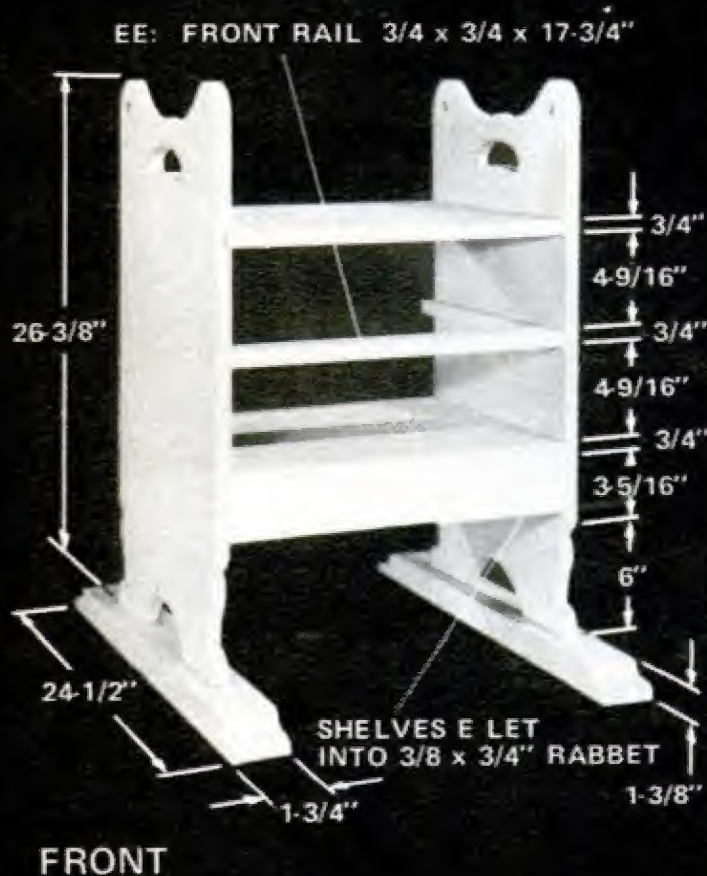




**Charm and function** are the distinctive features of this hutch-table. When table is not in use (left), hutch is provided with cushion for extra seat. Other photos show unit in service for functional table needs.



### Drawers slide on hardwood



dowels to make up the boards to desired width; then clamp the boards, but don't overtighten them. Simply run the clamps to close all joints neatly. Then sight along the edge to make certain you haven't "clamped in" a warp. When satisfied with the setup, wipe off all excess glue and set the section aside to dry for at least 24 hours. Follow the same procedure for all edge-glued members.

While these parts are drying, use the patterns shown on 2-in. squares (page 99) to lay out the curved members: feet and top braces. These are best cut by a band-saw and next-best cut by a sabre saw with a long blade. You can of course, do the shaping with a coping saw (as the old craftsmen did); it will just take longer. After cutting, sand the shaped portions.

The next day, you can lay out the sides and top and cut to shape. Important: Temporarily tack the sides together and cut both at the same time. Then, lay out the locations for the dados for the top and bottom shelves (E) and push the pieces through the dado-head cutters. To prevent any chance of the piece drifting as you plough the dados, use your miter-gauge clamping device. There's no need to dado the sides for the drawer slides. These are simply surface-mounted 3/4-in. square strips of hardwood.

With all parts cut and sanded, temporarily assemble the piece and mark the back (side and shelves) for rabbeting for the plywood back panel. Disassemble the piece and, using your router and a 1/4-in. rabbet cutter, make the edge rabbet. Then chuck a 1/4-in. rounding over (1/4 round) bit in the router and round all edges including top and bottom edges of the top. You will not be able to use the router to round over the shaped edges of the ends of the feet. Here, I found the Surform file and round file did the job best. Finally, sand all pieces, working up to a fine-grit paper.

**Locating the top.** Lay the top good-side down on your workbench. Turn the bench upside down and center it on the top. *Note: For strength, braces should be perpendicular to direction of boards in the top.* When you're satisfied with the fit, position the braces along the outside of the cabinet.

**Simplicity of table assembly** is visible in front and back views showing the table in partially constructed stage. All information you need to duplicate the piece is given in the photos here and on page 181, in the drawings at far right and in the text.



leaving some tolerance (about 1/16 in. on each side). Next, mark the brace locations and remove the bench. Making certain that the braces stay aligned with your pencil marks, tack the braces in place using 4d finishing nails through the ends of the braces. Flip the top and use a long straight-edge to draw a line directly over the center of the braces. Drill and counterbore three holes for each brace as indicated in the drawing. Turn in the screws and, after applying glue, push in short lengths of dowel plugs. (Good doweling technique calls for leaving dowel plugs slightly above the surrounding surface. When glue has dried, the protruding dowels can be sanded flush with the top.)

Hinge pins are simple affairs. All four are made alike, each from two parts, a 3-in. block of pine and a 4 1/4-in. length of 1/2-in. dowel. It's easier to make these production style, cutting all blocks at the same time. Ditto the dowel cutting, chamfering, drilling and sanding steps. Dowels are simply glued in the blocks.

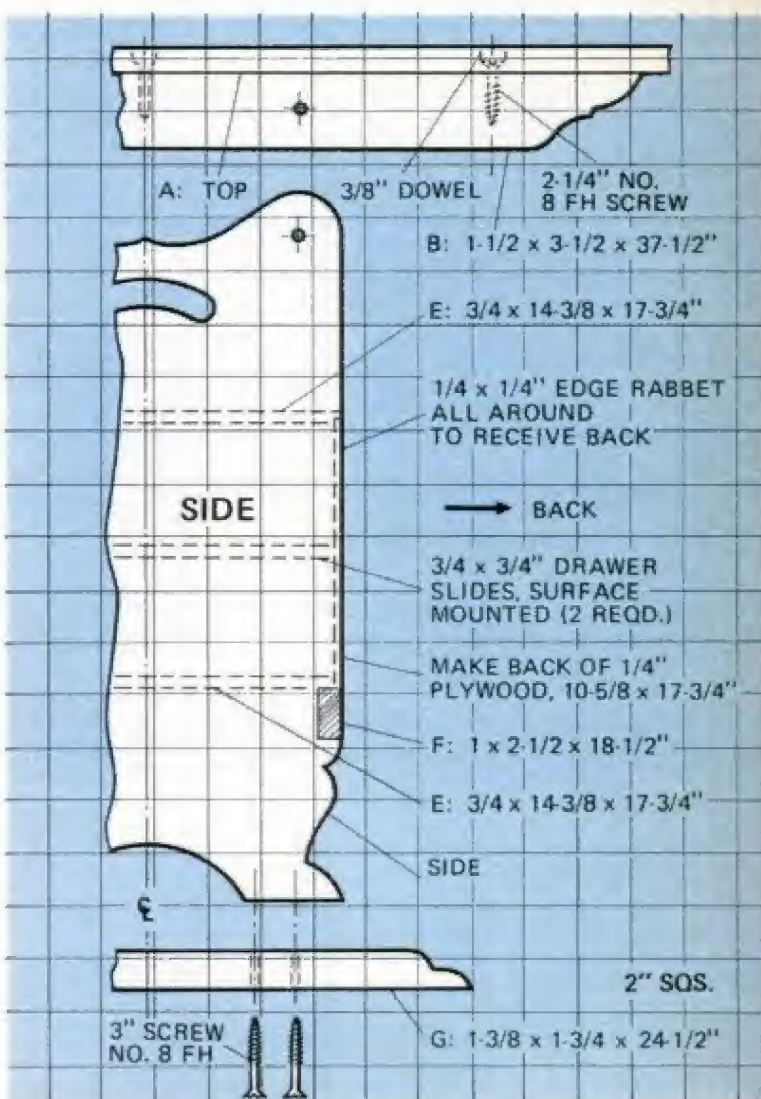
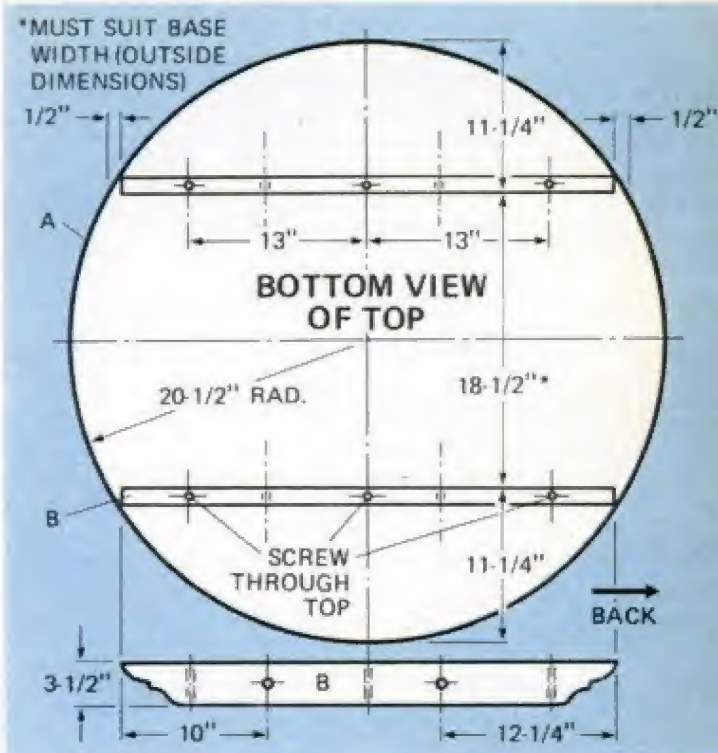
To locate the holes in bench sides and braces (part B), set the bench right-side up on your workbench. Position the tabletop on the bench. Note there is a difference in spacing of holes—you need greater distance at the back where the top will pivot. When the top is lined up, use two C-clamps on the ends of one brace to lock the top securely to the bench side. You'll need a 1/16-in. shim to maintain that clearance mentioned earlier. If you're right on, a scrap of Formica is just the thing for a perfect shim.

With a 1/2-in. spade bit, bore the holes through the first brace using a backup board on the side to prevent splintering when the bit breaks through. Then, leaving the clamps in place, swing around to the other side and bore the pair of holes required there. Remove the clamps and test-fit the hinge pins. They should fit snugly and not slide freely. If they are too tight, enlarge the holes slightly with a round file. Later, when the table is completed, you can always spray on silicone so that the pins will slip in and out of place without fracturing.

Drawers are of standard construction. The fronts are of 3/4-in. stock; sides and back of 1/2-in. stock and the bottom of 1/4-in. plywood. The front and sides are dadoed (1/2 in. up from the bottom edge) to

(Please turn to page 190)

**Best methods for locating braces on the top** is to position top correctly on bench and make match-marks. Then tack braces to the top, flip it and bore holes for screws.





# Creative deck and patio

DATA BY BARBARA GORDER



Outdoor living has become a way of life for the typical American family. Moderate seasons and temperate climates have especially stimulated homeowners' desire for an outdoor "family room." The cost to build a deck is substantially lower than that of a same-size addition and, considering the use that the entire family will get from the new space, it's money well spent.

We've rounded up three particularly handsome decks—including the double-tiered variety for hilly sites (facing page) designed by Saint Paul, Minn., landscape architect Marion Fry. In addition, you'll find all the basics you need to know for good deck construction shown in



Decks often offer the only means for outdoor living on steep building plots (top photo) and are popular for homes on level ground as well. The older home shown in the snapshot at left was re-designed by architect Russell Zenk of Minneapolis. The house-coordinated deck plays an important role; it provides an adult entertainment center at night and a children's play area by day.



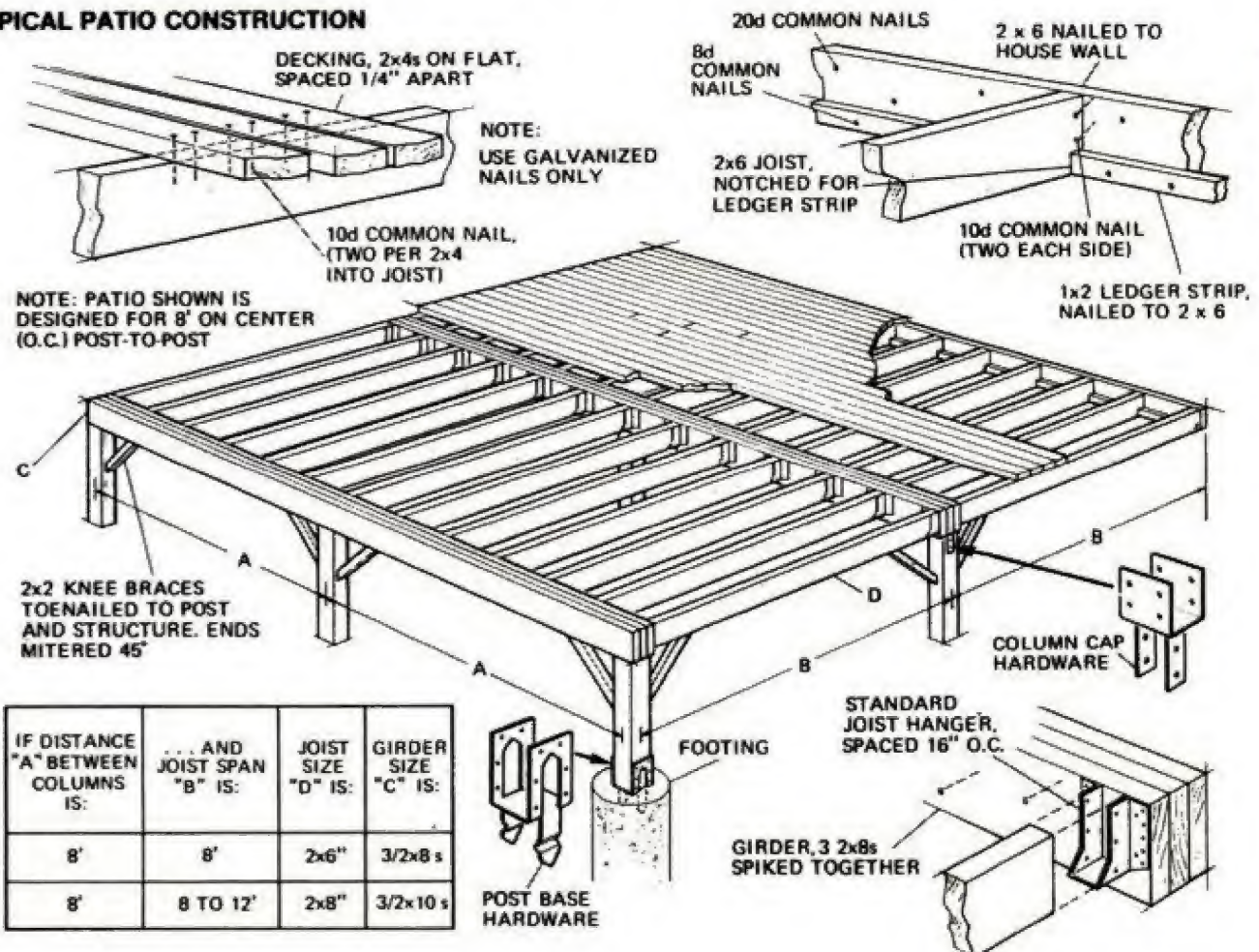
# ideas you can borrow

PHOTOS BY LES TURNAU



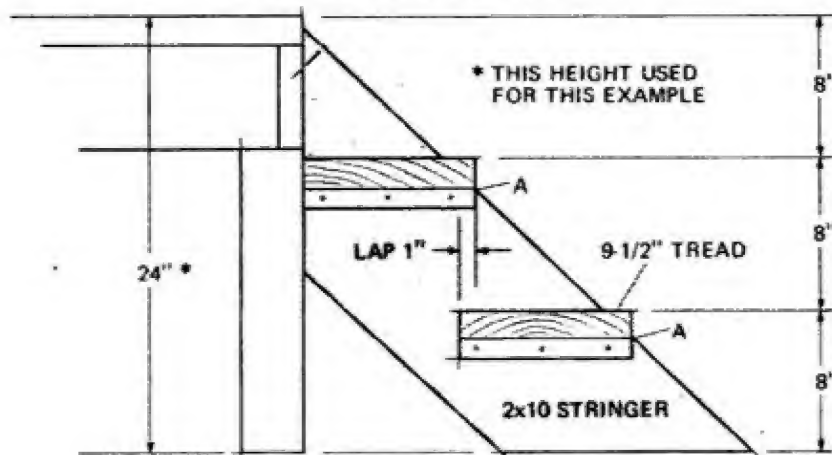
This huge double-tiered deck extends along entire length of the house at rear. Bonus: It overlooks a lake.

## TYPICAL PATIO CONSTRUCTION

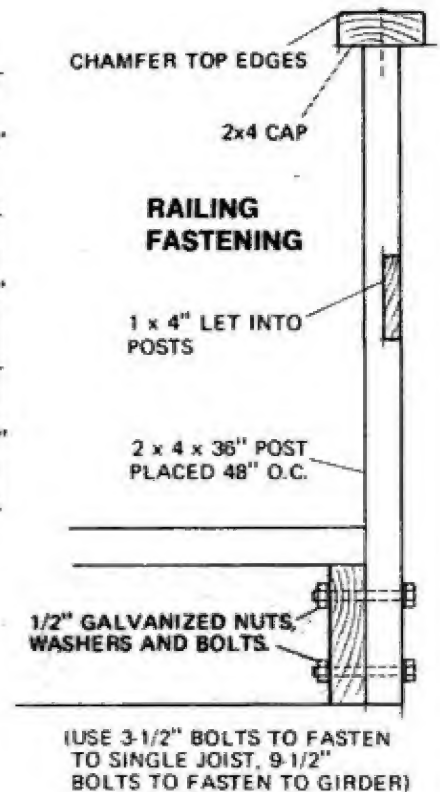




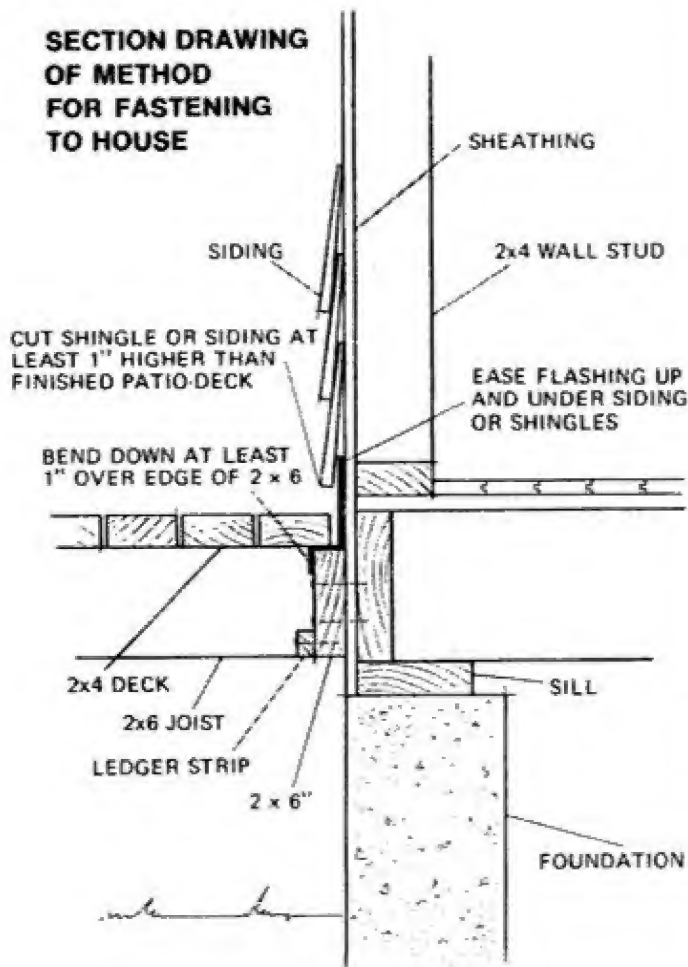
## HOW TO LAY OUT STAIRS



Stair design is tricky, but can be accomplished by a do-it-yourselfer. Important point is that riser height should never exceed  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in.—ideally, riser times tread (width) should equal 72. Thus, with an 8-in. rise, tread should be 9 in. For best results, lay out stairs actual-size on plywood or clean garage floor. Measure height from deck to ground and try riser height of 8 in. Deck height of 24 in. divided by 8 equals three “spaces.” Since ground and deck are not counted, that means two treads will be required to make the 24-in. rise above.



## SECTION DRAWING OF METHOD FOR FASTENING TO HOUSE



\* NOTE: FINISHED PATIO-DECK SHOULD BE LOWER THAN INTERIOR FLOOR

the drawings on these pages. Even if you decide to have a contractor build your deck, the information given in the drawings will let you determine whether the job is being done properly.

The type of materials to use is important. Usual decking requirements are wood that offers a high decay resistance, nonsplintering, good stiffness (for strength), wear resistance and minimal chance of warping. Woods with heartwood that combine these characteristics—from a good to a high degree—include: southern pine, cedar, redwood and cypress.

Open decking, as shown in the sketches, is usually nominal 2x4s spaced  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. apart over joists. Here, because rainwater will run through the deck, good drainage below—away from the house—is a must. For a solid deck, which will be covered by outdoor carpet, use only exterior-grade plywood over the joists. Keep in mind that a solid deck must be pitched to provide positive water runoff. Flashing, installed as shown, is imperative.

Preservative treatment of wood decking is also important. So, if possible, use wood that has been pressure-treated and, for longevity, treat your decks annually with preservative. Finally, before building your deck, be sure to check your plans with your local building department to assure that they conform with local codes. ★★★





**Kayot's Executive Cruiser** can speed at up to 30 mph with up to 85 hp clamped behind or slow down for fishing, sunning and sleeping aboard at anchor or at dockside. The new deckboat weighs 1880 pounds, can carry up to 2730 aboard, will sleep five and offers extensive accessories.

## Lead this trailer to water



**C**all this a pontoon boat, deckboat, houseboat, amphibian trailer, tent camper or an Executive Cruiser as the builders do—it adds up to a versatile recreational vehicle ashore and afloat. Made by the marine division of Kayot, Inc., Box 789M, Mankato, Minn. 56001, this new 25-footer converts easily from cruiser to camper with canvas curtains that can completely enclose the 22x8-foot deck and provide seven feet of headroom inside. Rated for up to 85 hp, it is reported to top water-ski speeds of more than 30 mph.

V-bottom aluminum pontoons help to smooth the ride, and at anchor or ashore on a trailer, the cruiser will sleep five and can carry complete galley and camping accessories. Its price is \$3950.



**Fully canvased** (center, left), Cruiser becomes over-nighter for comfortable RV trailering to campground, offers three-burner stove, LP tank, sink, icebox.

**Half-and-half enclosure** (left), fine for sunny weather, allows converting trailer boat to hunting lodge or shoreside cabin. Family car can haul, launch rig.





**Underwater action shots** are easy to get even with inexpensive equipment. Photos shown here were all made with Kodak Instamatic X-45 in \$39.95 Ikelite housing. Bottom view at right shows six-foot-wide sting ray. Middle two shots above show Ikelite's twin-grip housing for Kodak's new binocular-shaped XL movie cameras.





# New fun with underwater photos

A fast-growing sport almost as popular as skin diving itself, marine photography is easier than ever with waterproof housings for as little as \$30. There's even one for Kodak's new Pocket Instamatic.

by Scott Gallager

When I showed up for a recent oceanographic expedition in the Bahamas with a little plastic box and an Instamatic camera, there were some snickers from friends. Shoot underwater photos with a snapshot camera? I was a bit doubtful myself, but I was determined to try. As a marine research diver and scuba instructor, I've seen the \$1000 rigs the pros use, and there's a tendency to think underwater photography is a rich man's sport only. This, I discovered, is a lot of nonsense.

The fact is, if you own an Instamatic or 35-mm single-lens reflex, you can take good underwater photos at relatively little expense. Edmund Scientific, for example, sells an underwater housing for Instamatics that

*(Turn page for more photos;  
text continues on page 108)*

**Latest camera** to join growing underwater fleet is minisized Kodak Pocket Instamatic, shown in Ikelite housing (top photos, right). Housing has controls for shutter release, film advance and focus, can be fitted with flashcube and clip-on sportsfinder. Price is \$29.95. Rig at lower right is one used to make color shots on facing page. Also by Ikelite, housing takes Instamatics, is \$39.95.

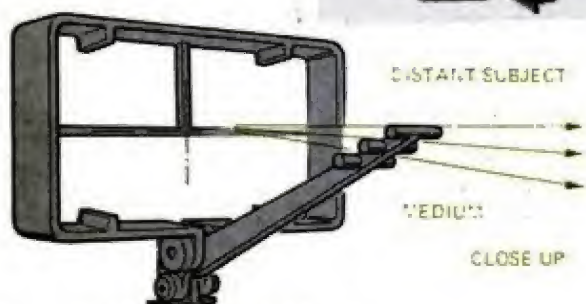




## A fascinating array of fittings and hardware



Several flash hookups are possible with versatile Ikelite housings. Reflector flash with coil cord (upper left) can be removed for off-camera side lighting. Flashcube bracket above comes with either noncoil cord (shown here) for fixed mounting or coil cord for removal. Photo at lower left shows how adapter snaps into flashcube socket on camera to fire external flash. Batteries to power flash slip into clips in housing.



Housing for Pocket Instamatic can be supplied with small, compact flashcube bracket (left, above) or with longer extension arm (right) to put flash farther ahead of camera. Drawing at lower left shows how sportsfinder works. By aligning crossbar with various "rungs" on ladder sight, you can aim camera for long, medium or close-up shots.





**Three least expensive housings** are shown above. One at left, made by Oceanic Products, is sold by Edmund Scientific for \$21. It takes Instamatic models 100, 104, 124 and 134, features molded recess for flashcube, permitting flash to be used right on camera. At center is Ikelite's \$29.95 housing for Instamatic models 314, 414 and most X-series types; \$39.95 version at right is for earlier Instamatic models 104, 124, 134 and 304. These two require external flash.

**Nicely molded handgrip**, removable flash arm and interchangeable filters are features of Seacor housing at right. Made for Konica C35 cameras, it's priced at \$74.95 for basic housing, with grip, flash and other accessories extra. Entire rig, including camera, grip and flash, can be purchased for \$224.80.



**For SLR shooters**, highly sophisticated housings are available from Ikelite for most common 35-mm makes. Two shown at right above are for Honeywell Pentax and Minolta SRT-100 and SRT-101 models. Basic price for housing alone is

\$149.95. Extras include removable coil-cord reflector-flash arm (center; about \$20), clip-on sportsfinder (about \$6) and strobe-flash attachments (not shown). Interchangeable lens ports (lower right) allow use of tele lenses.



## Shooting movies underwater can be fun, too

costs just \$21, including provision for flash. Ikelite, one of the biggest makers of underwater equipment, carries a full line of housings for virtually all Instamatics made, most common 35-mm SLRs and many movie cameras. Prices start as low as \$29.95. Outfits like Upsi, Seacor and Oceanic Products also offer housings for a variety of cameras.

As evidence of the growing popularity of underwater photography, housings are even being made for Kodak's new minisized Pocket Instamatic. Ikelite's sells for \$29.95 and for an added \$4.95 can be equipped to



**Underwater movies** are becoming more practical today, especially with Kodak's new high-speed Super-8 color film that needs no artificial light in most cases. Ikelite housing has twin handles for good grip, is designed particularly for Kodak's binocular-shaped XL-33 and XL-55 Super-8 models. It's \$59.95 for XL-33, \$69.95 for XL-55, the latter incorporating zoom and filter controls. At far right is housing for Mini Eumig and Bolex Super-8 cameras, about \$60 from Eumig or Ikelite.



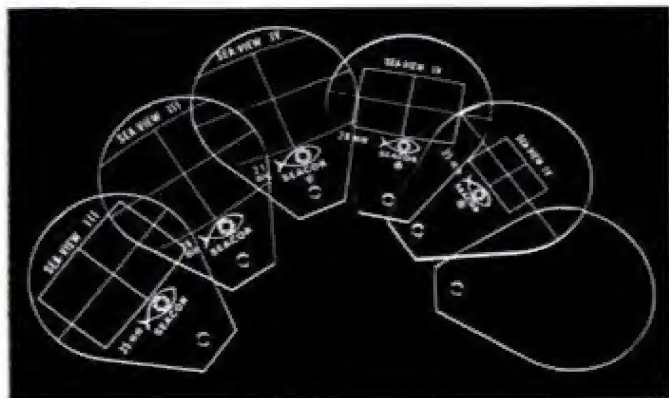


fire standard flashcubes. Also new are housings for Kodak's latest binocular-shaped XL-series Super-8 movie cameras. Made by both Ikelite and Upsi, they range from about \$60 to \$100. With Kodak's new high-speed color film, it's possible to shoot colorful underwater movies in natural sunlight. Most housings are made of clear, unbreakable plastic with watertight seals tested to withstand pressures up to 200 to 300 feet. You just slip in your camera, clamp on the faceplate, and you're ready to shoot. The simpler models provide shutter-release and

film-advance controls; more advanced types handle focus, zoom, diaphragm settings and other functions, depending on the camera.

I don't say the results you get with a \$30 housing will equal those of a \$1000 rig—they can't be expected to—but they'll be surprisingly colorful and dramatic, and they'll provide the fun and thrill of knowing you shot them yourself. It's hard to beat the sense of satisfaction and excitement you get watching a shot you made underwater blown up later on a four-foot-wide projection screen—the effects are fascinating even

*(Please turn to page 180)*



**Optical viewfinders** eliminate one of biggest underwater problems—aiming camera correctly. With these Seacor finders you can see exactly where camera is pointing and what picture area is taken in. Interchangeable front grids (left) let you tailor finder to your specific focal-length lens. Finders have standard shoe mounts, fit most housings, are \$40 to \$50.



**Typical underwater shots** that are easy to make without elaborate gear show girl diver (left), view from inside marine cave looking out (center) and

large brain coral (right). All were made with Instamatic X-45 under natural sunlight without flash at shallow depths of 10 to 15 feet.



IT'S NEW

# NOW



## Improved diving mask and snorkel

Easier underwater swimming is the object of these new skin-diving aids. Unusually shaped mask (far left) sweeps outward at the sides for fuller, wider vision and incorporates a purge valve for expelling trapped water. Molded-in finger wells (near left) permit squeezing nose to equalize ear pressure without lifting mask. Snorkel has purge valve in the flex hose, also for easy expulsion of trapped water. Scubaview mask is \$13; Seaflex snorkel, \$3.50. Healthways, 5340 W. 102nd St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.



## From rowboat to sailboat in minutes with this easy-to-attach mast, rudder and leeboard rig

Any rowboat or other small open craft can be equipped for sailing in minutes with the simple clamp-on rig shown on the facing page. An aluminum mast is held in place by a T-shaped arrangement of slotted braces that hook over the bow and gunwales and adjust easily to any size hull (upper photo, near left). Leeboards bolt on the ends of the crossbrace to provide the function of a keel. The rudder is merely an oar-like arm that fits over the transom and pivots for steering (lower photo). The ROWfish rig comes in three sail sizes: one with 45 sq. ft. for lightweight boats 12 to 14 feet long for \$121; one with 60 sq. ft. for heavy boats or those more than 14 feet in length for \$137; and a 75-square-footer for larger, heavier craft for \$168. The last is a sloop rig with Bermuda mainsail and Genoa jib. Freight charges excluded. A F Marine Co., Box 3, West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552, sells conversion kits.



## Now it's automatic changers for cartridge tapes

You can play 8-track cartridge tapes like a stack of records with these automatic changers. RCA model at top holds five tapes, has AM/FM/FM stereo radio, two speakers for \$329.95. Deck alone, \$169.95. Toyo (lower left) plays six 2 or 4-channel tapes, is not yet priced. MGA Mitsubishi (lower right) takes three tapes, is \$99.95.

## Would you believe—a race for tractors?

They didn't break any speed records, but they had a lot of fun in this oddball race for farm tractors recently staged at Kent, England. First to streak—that is, chug—across the finish line was famed Brazilian racing driver Emerson Fittipaldi, shown in his big-tired Ford "special." His speed? Well, no one is exactly saying.





# NOW

## For shooting pictures, not bullets

Fancy gunstock camera mount is about as close as you can get to the look and feel of a real gun. Made to steady long telephoto lenses, it's shaped like an actual rifle stock, has a walnut finish and features front grip with built-in shutter-release trigger. With adjustable mounting platform and shoulder strap, \$39.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping from Bass Camera, 179 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.



## Steam bike beats pedaling, pollution

When David Sarlin gets tired of pedaling, he simply switches to steam power and rides merrily along. The single-cylinder, double-acting engine, a work of art in itself made of brass, develops 100 p.s.i. and speeds to 16 mph. It uses a little gasoline to heat water for steam, but is virtually smog-free and noiseless. It drives the bike's front wheel through a rubber roller and is easily removable. Plans are \$9.50 from Sarlin, 2321 Russell St., Berkeley, Calif. 94805.







### **Spear fishing with a real bang**

You fire these underwater spear guns just like a real one—with an explosive charge. Cartridge-loading guns pack more punch than rubber-band-powered models and save having to hand-stretch the rubber into place for each shot. Single-barrel type (left) is \$75; double-barrel version (right), \$100. Tapmatic Corp., 1851 Kettering St., Irvine, Calif. 92705.



### **Now they're making umbrellas for pipes yet!**

As every pipe smoker knows, it's hard to keep tobacco dry in a pouring rain. Now there's an answer—a miniature umbrella that clips to the side of the bowl to keep water out of your pipe, if not off you. The solid gold novelty is priced at—brace yourself—\$835! Dunhill's Ltd., 650 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y., sells it.



### **Frank Lloyd Wright magic for mobile homes**

That aluminum shoe-box look for the house that arrives on wheels may be replaced by something better. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Ariz., has designed the smartly styled 12x71-footer (left) plus plans for fitting out up to 50 variations of three basic single and double-width models into a "harmonious community development." National Homes, Lafayette, Ind., is building the mobile homes. The first, on display at Arizona Mobile Home Industries in Phoenix, is priced under \$10,000, has floor-to-ceiling picture windows with wood-type trim, interior decor and furniture and outdoor landscaping.





## A 'wet' suit you wear dry to keep warm under water

No, this isn't a new kind of water sport—just a demonstration of the latest in thermal wear for scuba divers. Unlike the usual skin-tight "wet" suit, Unisuit is partly inflated with air, forming a layer of insulation around the diver's body that's said to keep the wearer warm even in icy waters. To prove suit's buoyancy, a pretty assistant playfully stands on a floating test diver at far left. Poseidon Systems, Perth Amboy, N.J., is the maker.

## Scooter has its ups and downs

This unusual cross between a scooter and bicycle is propelled merely by pumping up and down on the footboard. The board is attached to an offcenter hub on the rear wheel that forces the wheel to rotate as board moves up and down. Price is \$59.50 from Wheel Thing, Inc., 361 West El Manino Real, Mountain View, Calif. 94040.



## You can't tell a book by its cover—this one's really a burglar alarm

Hiding unobtrusively in a bookshelf, this kit-built ultrasonic sensor detects motion in a room or entryway and sets off a loud alarm if an intruder attempts to break in. The sensor, powered by 117-volt a.c., slips into a booklike cover (near left) and has outlets in back for plugging in an audible alarm, warning light or both. A built-in 30-second delay gives you time to deactivate the alarm before triggering it. GD-39 kit is \$49.95 from Heath Co., Benton Harbor, Mich. 49022.





## The Russians are coming: Sneak peak at a deadly new Red Navy carrier

Russia's first true aircraft carrier is shown at left in artist's concept made from secret satellite photos taken by NATO observers. Unlike earlier types that can launch helicopters only, the new giant has a 600-foot-long angled flight deck to handle fixed-wing fighters and bombers. Estimated overall length is 900 feet—equal to three football fields. Foredeck is laid out like a cruiser's with guns and missile launchers, making a deadly all-purpose attack vessel.

## Rain or shine, nothing affects this outdoor speaker

Encased in weatherproof plastic, the mod-styled hi-fi speaker at right can be left outdoors all summer for patio use, then brought indoors in winter. The smart white pedestal-type enclosure houses a 12-inch down-firing woofer, mid-range and tweeter; handles 75 watts, has response of 30 to 20,000 cycles and measures about 25 inches high by 17 inches in diameter. \$139.95 from Empire Scientific Corp., 1055 Stewart Ave., Garden City, N.Y. 11530.



## A weekender that really goes up in a weekend

This weekend vacation lodge can actually be put up in a weekend, ready for use. A lock-together system enables the 16 by 32-foot A-frame to be assembled in two days by do-it-yourselfers. Roof and floor panels prefinished inside and out are insulated for year-round use. Included are 4 by 16-foot front deck, full kitchen and bath facilities, gas furnace and prewired electrical fixtures for 12 or 117-volt power. About \$6000. R-J Industries, Inc., Box 237, Readlyn, Iowa 50668.





# NOW

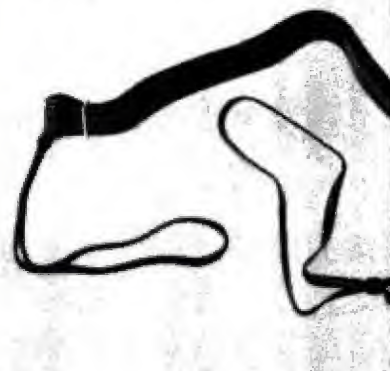
## Better watch your parking or you may get plucked right off the road

Illegally parked cars get a quick lift off to the pound with the hydraulic rig shown below. Currently under test by London police, the truck-mounted crane makes it possible to pick up a car from the side without having to jockey a tow truck into position in front, often difficult on crowded streets. Two slings slip under the ends of the car and raise it onto the truck's flat bed for hauling away. The Z-Wagon is made by Telehoist, Ltd., Manor Rd., Cheltenham, England.



## A fisherman for the man, a family cruiser for the woman

If you want a sport fisherman and your wife prefers a family cruiser, you can each have your way with this combination fisherman/cruiser. Deep-V F-24 Trojan 24-footer, fully equipped for fishing, has a galley, head and sleeping quarters for family outings. Handles engines up to 225 hp., is stout enough for off-shore use, small enough to trailer. For prices, write Trojan Yacht, Box 1571, Lancaster, Pa. 17604.



## All-purpose shoulder sling for gun or tripod

Toting a tripod, gun or similar gear on long hikes is easy with this slip-on shoulder sling. Loops on ends are simply hooked over object to be carried and pulled tight by slip rings to hold them in place. Adjustable sling, made by Kalimar, is about \$3. Available at camera shops and discount centers.



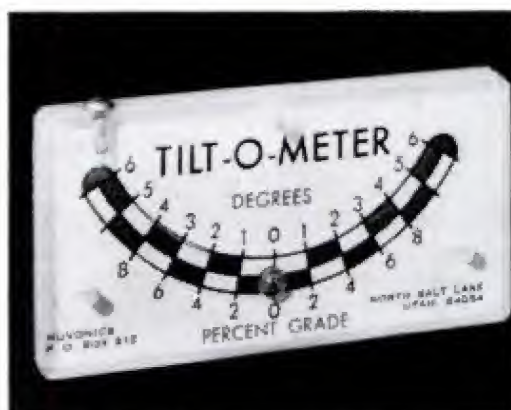


### How to stop a runaway truck going downhill: Just turn it back uphill

Going down steep mountain roads in the Alps can be hazardous for heavily laden trucks if their brakes fail. Now Austrian authorities have solved the problem by installing a series of "bremswegs"—brake roads—along long downgrades. Short pull-off strips curve sharply upward, bringing a runaway truck to a safe stop.

### Gauge helps keep you on the level

Campers who travel rugged back-country roads can tell at a glance if their vehicle is tipping over too far for safety by watching the little ball in this Tilt-O-Meter. Fastened to dashboard, the device indicates degrees of tilt; shows danger points in red. \$7 postpaid, J. C. Whitney, 1917 Archer Ave., Chicago, Ill.



### Coming: 4-channel receivers that play everything—matrix, discrete, discs and tape

Until now, 4-channel amplifiers and receivers usually contained only decoders for 4-channel records and FM-stereo broadcasts using matrix encoding systems like Columbia's SQ or Sansui's QS. If you wanted to play discrete 4-channel Quadradisc records, you needed a special external demodulator. This fall we'll see the start of a new breed of all-in-one receivers with matrix decoders and Quadradisc demodulators built in. First models to be publicly announced are the Akai AS-980 (upper left) and the JVC 4VR-5446 (bottom). Both will have optional "joystick" remote balance controls like that sitting atop the Akai. Latter will deliver 120 watts output, cost about \$700; JVC's will put out about 170 watts and is expected to sell around \$550.





# NOW



**Low-priced 'joy-stick' faucet**

This contemporary single-handle faucet is in the same price range as conventional two-handle types, according to the maker. Priced at \$16.40, the washerless faucet, named Aquamix, has a ceramic disc cartridge that's said to withstand better the silt, sand and minerals in water that erode washers. Designed for quick, one-man installation, the top-mounted unit is meant for standard three-hole sinks. Available at plumbing suppliers. American-Standard, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903, makes it.



**Plywood liner makes instant cedar closets**

Clothing and linens will take on that luxurious cedar-chest scent when stored in a closet paneled with aromatic cedar plywood closet liner. The 1/4-in. panels are sold in standard 4x8-ft. sheet size and have a smooth-surfaced knotty red cedar face veneer that requires no staining or finishing and little maintenance. The manufacturer claims the liner's cost is comparable to wallboard prices, says application is easy, and suggests paneling pantries and utility areas as well as closets with it. For information, prices and the name of nearest source, write Boise Cascade, Communications Dept., Box 4463, Portland, Ore. 97208.



**Vinyl siding  
is 'house paint' you  
press in place**

Self-adhesive vinyl "siding" takes the place of paint, goes on over existing siding, eaves, fascias and trim. Sold in 27-inch by 50-foot rolls. MAClar costs less than a professional paint job, the maker claims. Sample kit is available for \$1 from Bryce-Branton, 690 Southern Ave., Muskegon, Mich. 49441. Flexible plastic strips can be easily cut to any width or length to fit over existing surfaces. The material is applied merely by pressing it in place; it requires no surface preparation provided old paint is in reasonably sound condition. For quantity prices, write maker.





### This 'still' is for water

Distilled, purified water—two gallons a day—is provided for home use by Aquaspring. Tap water is heated to boiling inside, then condensed on aluminum cooling fins and collected in a plastic container. Operating on household current, the unit removes all dirt, salt, chlorine, pesticides and mercury from water, according to maker, New Medical Techniques, Inc., 1700 Summer St., Stamford, Conn. 06905. Suggested retail price for Aquaspring is \$89.95.



### Chain 'handcuffs' doorknob

New kind of door chain boasts quick, easy installation with a single screw eye in the doorframe. Other end of chain is attached to a ring—easy to slip on and off doorknob from inside, impossible from outside. Chain is protected by steel sleeve to help prevent cutting or sawing. Lektro-Guard chain guard is \$3.95 plus 25 cents for handling from Jespersen House, 712 East 9th St., Spokane, Wash. 99202.



### Burglary and fire-alarm combination has stick-on parts

Burglary and fire protection with easy installation is claimed for Challenger Safe-Home Alarm System. For \$95, the basic kit includes intrusion sensors for six doors or windows and fire sensors for four locations, plus a solid-state master panel, a control unit with time-delay circuits, loud horn and 250 ft. of connecting wire. All components have self-sticking backs, and solderless connectors are used. According to the maker, a pair of scissors is the only tool required for installation. Other sensors, howlers, gongs are also offered. Crismar Corp., 7 Johnson Ave., Plainville, Conn. 06062, is the manufacturer.

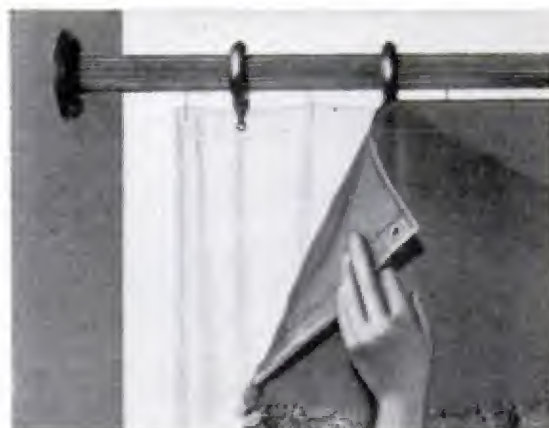


# NOW



## All-in-one road emergency kit

This handy kit-for-all-occasions is designed to handle virtually any highway emergency situation you're likely to meet on vacation travels or camping trips. The case includes 8-ft. jumper cables, aerosol tire inflator, aerosol fire extinguisher, emergency blinker, high-intensity spotlight, gasoline siphon pump, first-aid kit and complete instruction book. \$19.95 plus \$2 postage and handling from Penthouse Products, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



## Two tracks separate shower curtain from liner

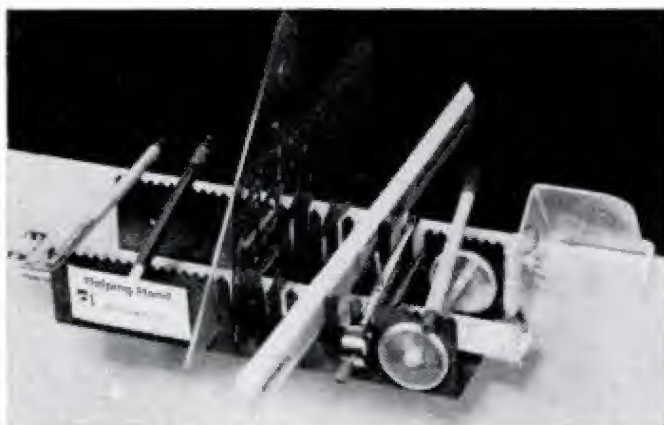
A new shower-curtain rod, Chateau by Kirsch, has two tracks. One in back holds grommets, while decorative rings, which slide without marring rod's finely fluted finish, hold either grommets or pinch-pleated shower curtains. In antique white or antique brass, rod is made to coordinate with a complete line of other bath accessories. Sells for \$16.79 at department stores.



## To mulch or not to mulch—you can take your choice with these two new mowers

You can leave grass cuttings on your lawn for mulch or sweep them up clean. Bolens' Mulching Mower (far left) has a fully enclosed housing said to create suction that picks up and recuts grass clippings and leaves until deposited as a finely shredded mulch. Latest Lawn-Boy (near left) vacuums clippings and leaves, bags them for easy removal. For information, write Bolens Div., FMC Corp., Port Washington, Wis., and Lawn-Boy, Outboard Marine Corp., Lincoln, Nebr.





### Holder keeps instruments handy whatever drawing board's angle

Set your drawing board at any angle and Helping Hand will keep your instruments nearby without danger they'll slide off. Holder clamps to side or top edge of board, won't interfere with drafting machine or T-square. Helping Hand is \$9.95 with clamp, \$4.50 without, from Devonics, Inc., 1515 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92107.

### Ladder aid does double duty

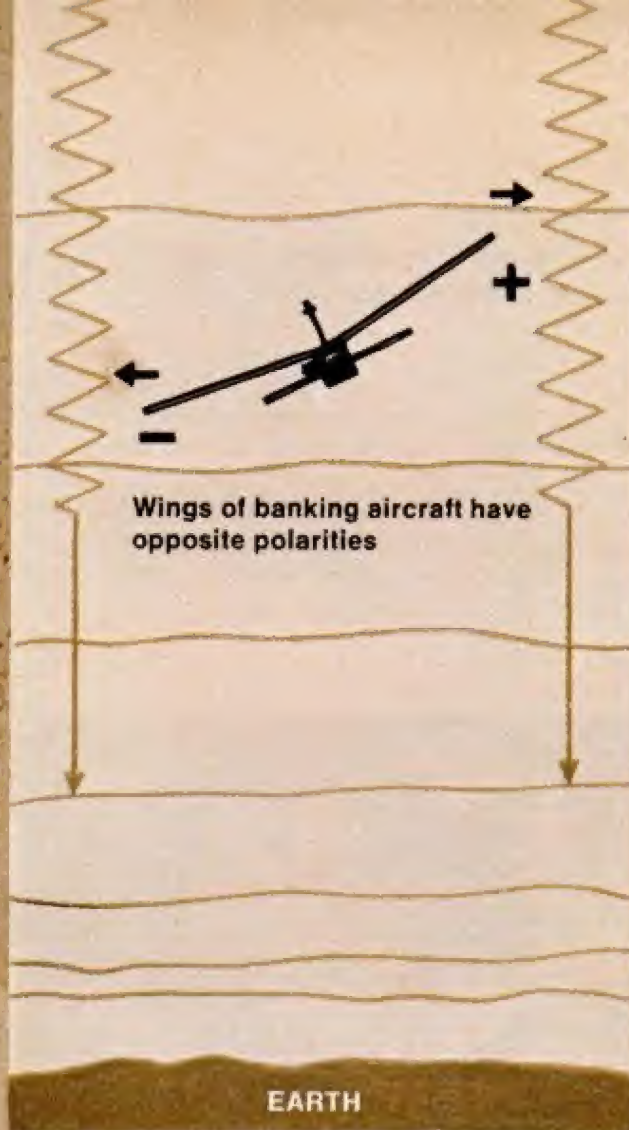
Working for long periods on a ladder with narrow rungs can be tiring on the feet. Put yourself on a firmer footing with any round-runged ladder with Tote-Step. The device hooks over a rung to give you a secure, comfortable perch. It also doubles as a tool carrier when not on the ladder. \$9.90 postpaid from Tote-Step Corp., 6801 Industrial Loop, Greendale, Wis. 53129.



### Forget those phone numbers and dial by name instead

Dialing finger tired? Have a robot dial your local and long-distance calls—all you do is move a slide to the name you want, pick up the receiver and push one button. The device, placed under the telephone, runs on D batteries or optional a.c. adapter. It's programmed to the desired numbers with a special pencil and won't interfere with normally dialed calls. The Name Caller is available for both single-line home phones and multiline business phones. The basic unit is \$49.50. Mascom Products Corp., 2835 Columbia St., Torrance, Calif. 90503, makes it.





Wings of banking aircraft have opposite polarities

Autopilot reacts to electrical charges in atmosphere. In drawing (above), it will cause wing with plus charge to dip until level flight is attained.

With autopilot on, plane's tendency is to maintain level flight. If put into spin (autopilot off), plane will pull out moments after autopilot is switched on again.



Spin-out test



Nose and fin sensors control pitch

## New autopilot got started

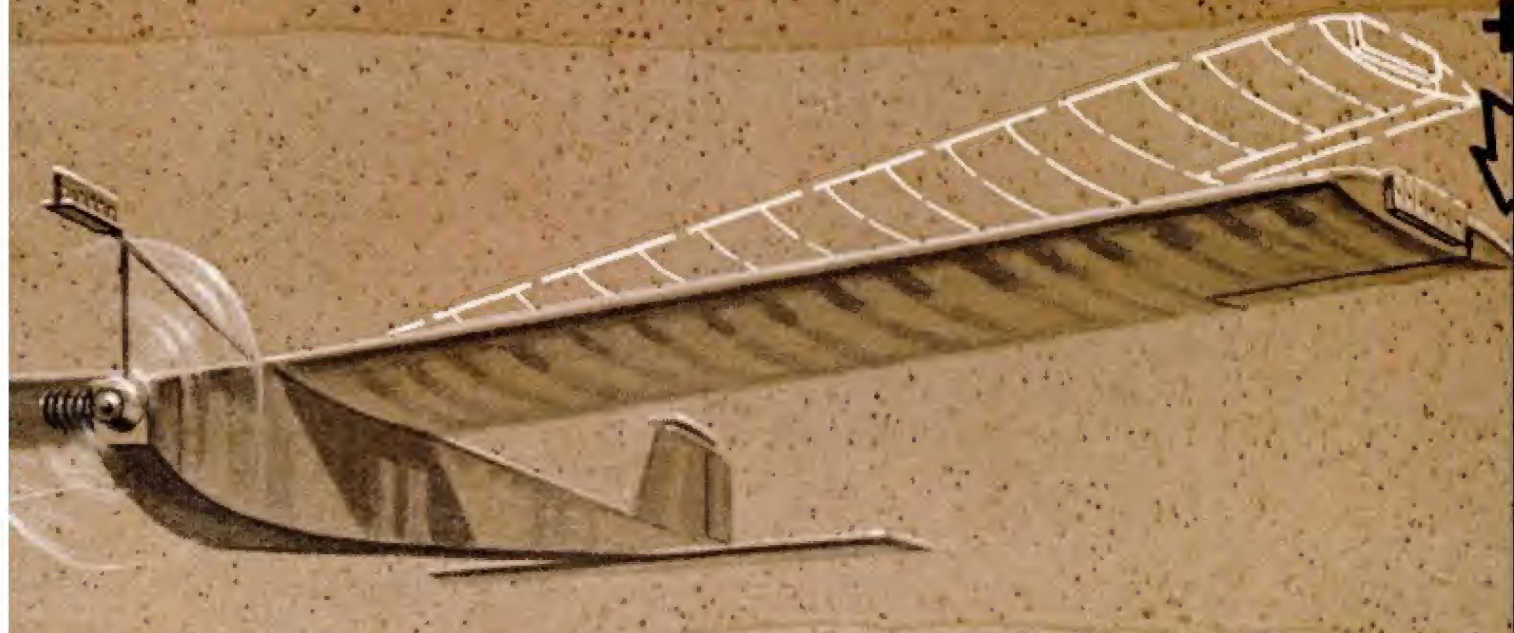
Researchers were investigating clear air turbulence when they made a discovery that led to a revolutionary type of autopilot—a device that reacts to electricity in the atmosphere. But will it work in full-sized aircraft?

by D. J. Holford

Maynard Hill and John Rowland were trying to track CAT. Hill and Rowland work at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland, and the CAT they were after is Clear Air Turbulence—a type of turbulence that strikes without warning and is most common at jetliner cruising altitudes.

Since CAT is frequently associated with rising air, the researchers were looking for a detector that would warn a pilot when he was entering rising air. One approach

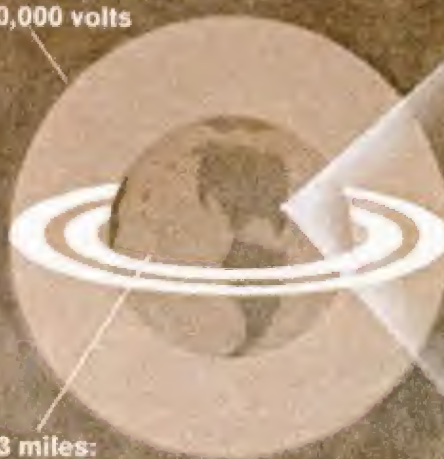




The atmosphere is a huge capacitor—electric storage field—with the Earth negative and the air above it positively charged. As shown in drawing, the top of the atmospheric layer has charge of 350,000 volts; Earth's surface, zero volts. Voltage layers encircle the Earth like the layers of an onion. A man standing in the open at ground level would get a reading of zero volts at his feet and about 300 volts several inches above his head.

At 7 miles: about 350,000 volts

At 3 miles: about 175,000 volts



## with Ben Franklin's kite

that seemed promising was to measure the voltage of air passing the wingtips, the theory being that rising air would pick up dust particles, some of which might be electrically charged.

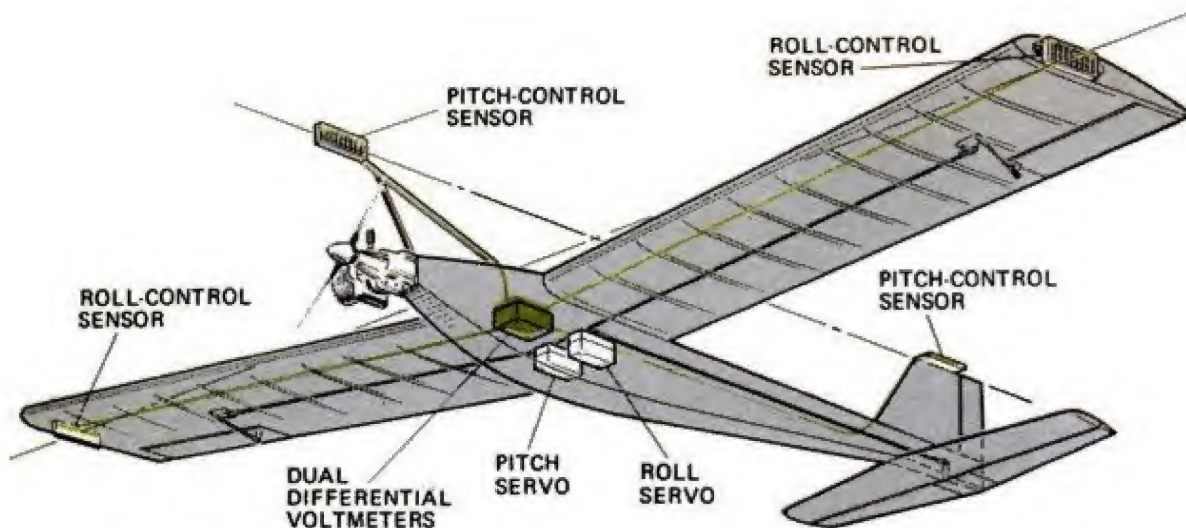
They installed sensitive voltage detectors in a radio-controlled model aircraft. (Hill, a skilled R/C model builder, holds several world performance records for models.) The equipment was set up to transmit signals to the ground. Rising air near the left wingtip might cause a high-pitched tone

to be transmitted; a lower note would indicate rising air near the right wingtip.

The theory sounded good, but in practice it was disappointing. The tone differences were too small to serve as a useful CAT-warning device. But Hill was not ready to scrap the system. It seemed to him that the changes in tone they did hear were somehow related to the maneuvers of the aircraft.

With help from a fellow aeromodeler, Ben Givens, the equipment was modified to





Autopilot in model aircraft used by researchers has few components. Forward sensor is mounted on a boom to protect it from engine's oily exhaust.

make it more sensitive. Gear was added so that the signals could be taped along with Hill's comments as he controlled the model. The results were just what could be expected if the control signals of an autopilot were converted to musical tones. Something was causing the signals to vary whenever the model changed attitude.

The next step was obvious: Install an autopilot. Instead of using complex and expensive gyroscopes to control the plane, the researchers decided to use the variations in wingtip voltage. After the autopilot was installed, Hill put the model into a steep dive, then switched control over to the autopilot. The results were startling. The model immediately leveled off and flew smoothly and sedately. Hill tried to roll it by radio control, but all the autopilot would permit was a gentle turn.

Having proved that they were indeed onto something useful, Hill and his colleagues added other detectors in the nose and tail to provide pitch control. Then they placed a heavy wrench in the tail to unbalance the plane. When the aircraft was flown without the autopilot it went into a violent series of stalls, dives and steep climbs; but with the autopilot on, it snapped back into level flight within seconds. If inverted when the autopilot was turned on, the plane would roll or loop back into level flight.

The autopilot worked like a dream, and was simple to build. Hill sent details to a team at Wright-Patterson AFB who were also using R/C models for research. In six days the Wright-Patterson team had their own system and it worked as well as Hill's.

Since then several aeromodelers have built duplicates of the autopilot—a simple device that weighs only three ounces, has no moving parts and costs under \$100.

But what makes it work?

The answer starts with Ben Franklin and his kite. When he flew a kite in a thunderstorm, he gave the first practical demonstration of atmospheric electricity. Since then many men have studied and measured electrical charges in the air, but no one seems to have devised any useful



**Radio-controlled model**, piloted by Maynard Hill, comes in for easy landing. Flights such as this proved that autopilot functioned well in gusts and turbulence.





**Electrostatic autopilot** (left) weighs about three ounces with batteries. It's examined below by Hill (right) and two of his colleagues, Ray Cole (center) and Ben Givens. Hill has flown a radio-controlled model plane to a record altitude of 27,000 feet.



applications. Even Hill and his colleagues made their discovery by accident.

The difference in voltage between the upper atmosphere and the Earth's surface is around 350,000 volts, which is spread throughout the entire thickness of the atmosphere. At ground level, if you stand in the open, the voltage differential between your feet and a point several inches above your head will be about 300 volts. The space between layers separated by one volt is about one-fifth of an inch at sea level, changing gradually to about four inches at 20,000 feet. You don't feel this voltage because the current is too small to sense. Also, the field becomes distorted by your presence and tends to flow around and over you.

These voltage layers encircle the earth like layers of an onion. They are almost perfectly horizontal except for the bottom ones, distorted by buildings, hills and trees. What Hill's autopilot does is sense which layer the wingtips are in and try to keep them both in the same layer.

An obvious question: "What happens in a thunderstorm?" No one knows for sure. Models with the autopilot have been flown within a two-mile radius of visible lightning, and the flights remained stabilized. But full-size aircraft are frequently hit by lightning. So before scientists can think about installing electrostatic autopilots in manned aircraft they will have to learn a great deal more about the effects of thunderstorms and other weather conditions on the electric field.

It is not even known how well, if at all, the system will work in an all-metal aircraft. All the tests to date have been with models with nonmetallic skins. Perhaps the presence of a large metal object—a big plane—will short out the field. If the system is to be used on metal aircraft, the

detectors may have to be mounted on long insulated probes.

But it does work well in models, in good weather conditions. One other application that it appears ideal for is training RPV pilots. RPVs—Remote Piloted Vehicles—are promising to take over many of the more hazardous military missions. In effect, they are highly sophisticated R/C models and an electrostatic autopilot could be a boon to the student RPV pilot; it would keep the aircraft stable for him while he mastered "flying" techniques.

Another possible application is in light aircraft for training students. With an electrostatic autopilot, the instructor could relax, for even the most ham-fisted novice could not stall or spin the aircraft.

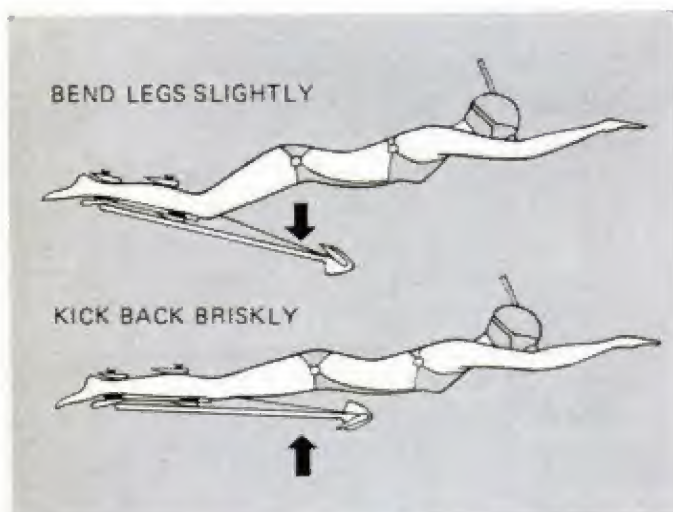
But all this, except for the model aircraft application, is pure speculation. As Hill points out, what is needed now is a thorough investigation of the autopilot and its possible applications. The discovery is at the same stage transistors were in 1950. We know that it works and we know roughly how. But we don't know enough details to use the discovery for anything more than a sophisticated and intriguing gadget. ★ ★ ★



# A leg-powered machine for easy swimming

by John F. Pearson  
SCIENCE EDITOR

On first try, Colleen failed to extend her arms forward and did not generate much thrust. She also should have worn a mask and snorkel. An instructor in the PepsiCo, Inc., employee health program, Colleen volunteered for PM test swim.



Body should be held straight with head in the water for minimum drag. Note that on return swing the front wings feather, slicing the water as they sweep up toward body.

With his strange-looking Aqueon swimming machine, Cal Gongwer sweeps through the water—banking and turning in large figure-eights—with the ease and grace of a seal. It's a tough act to follow.

When my turn came, I was pleased to find that straight-ahead swimming was not difficult and that I could develop considerable thrust. Another swimmer, Colleen Dunlevy, did all right, too, once she got the hang of it.

The Aqueon is no toy—it's a practical device that allows the scuba diver or surface swimmer to achieve greater distance or speed. It leaves the hands and arms free to carry a camera, spear gun or tools.

The apparatus consists of an aluminum tube and wooden crosspieces. A fixed blade



at the rear acts as a stabilizer and two movable blades or wings in front provide propulsion. Nylon cords connect the wings to a spring. You power the Aqueon by doing a dolphin kick. The front wings move up and down in a sculling action to create thrust.

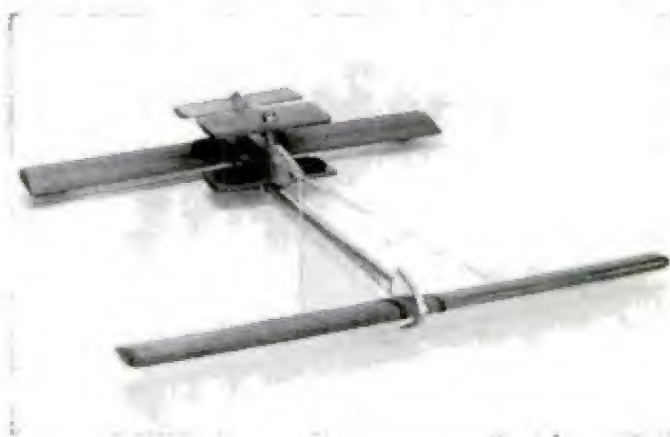
For best results, you should wear a mask and snorkel. They enable you to keep your face down, eliminating the need to raise your head to breathe. Your body should be fully stretched out, arms extended in front. Your arms are used only for steering; any swimming movements slow you down. The Aqueon requires much less exertion than fins. A few years ago, Gongwer swam the 25-mile Catalina Channel, off California, in under 12 hours. The most impressive part of the feat was that he towed a surfboard carrying a 160-pound man.

You can move fast, too. Aqueon-equipped swimmers can do 25 yards in 8.4 seconds—without a starting dive. Top freestyle swimmers, starting with a racing dive, need 9.8 seconds to cover the distance.

An engineer and expert in hydrodynamics, the 58-year-old Gongwer is in better condition than most men half his age. He swims daily. Out of the water he is a successful inventor and holds a number of patents, many for underwater devices. He says he spent about 20 years perfecting the Aqueon.

The device is available as a kit (\$97.50) or finished unit (\$124.50). It's sold by the Pan Western Research Corp., 1506 Dorothy Lane, Newport Beach, Calif. 92660. ★★

**You "mount"** the Aqueon by slipping lower legs between rubber-cushioned boards (top photo). For the beginner it's best to accomplish this in shallow water. Once the boards are adjusted to fit your legs, it's no trick to mount or dismount in any depth of water. Though the Aqueon (middle photo) looks simple enough, it's a scientifically designed apparatus. It knocks down into a compact bundle for travel and weighs only 13 pounds. Colleen encountered no difficulty when carrying it into the pool.

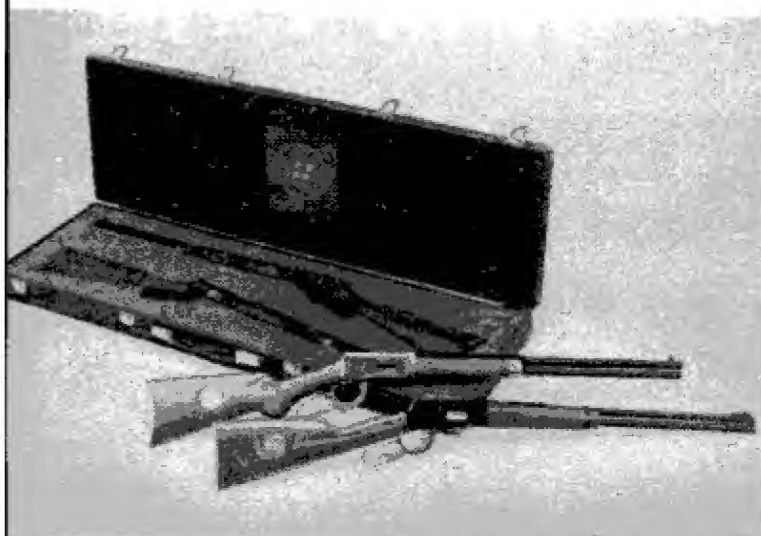




# Guns too slick to shoot

These handsome replicas are called commemoratives, and they may be making money for you while just hanging there on the wall.

by Joe Kelleher



Brace of Marlins in fitted case are .22 and .30-30. Winchesters are Lone Star and Illinois Centennial.

Guns have always fascinated Americans, and now commemorative models are attracting people who never owned a gun before. True collectors' items, these guns usually have ornate engraving on the receiver or descriptive medallions inset into the stock. Many feature brass trim or old-fashioned octagon barrels. Priced well over market value for similar guns, these reminders of historical events are seldom bought to be fired. Most owners keep their guns in their special boxes or display cases, and some consider them primarily an investment.

Unlike stocks and bonds, commemorative guns rarely decrease in value. Many gun shops discount list prices to some degree but not commemoratives; they usually go for full list. Often limited editions are sold on a special order or reservation basis before production even starts. Current value of any commemorative depends to a large extent on the number of guns issued. Back in 1961, Colt produced a short-barrel .45 single-action sheriff's model, the first of the Lawman Series. Production was 478 pistols in blue at \$130 and 20 nickel-plated guns at \$140. If you can find one today, the blued guns will bring at least \$400. But market value of the rare nickel models is estimated to be a whopping \$800 to \$1000.

Even commemoratives issued in large numbers have increased in value. The Winchester Centennial '66 carbine and rifle are good examples. More than 100,000 were produced, yet they are now worth about 60 to 70 percent more than list. Colt issued more than 24,000 Civil War Centennial pistols for \$32.50 in 1961. Asking price today for these single-action .22s is around \$75.

If you get this collecting bug, specializing can also protect your investment and help it grow. You can select pistols associated with historic personalities, or lever-action rifles of one caliber. Some advanced collectors try to find different commemoratives with the same serial number.

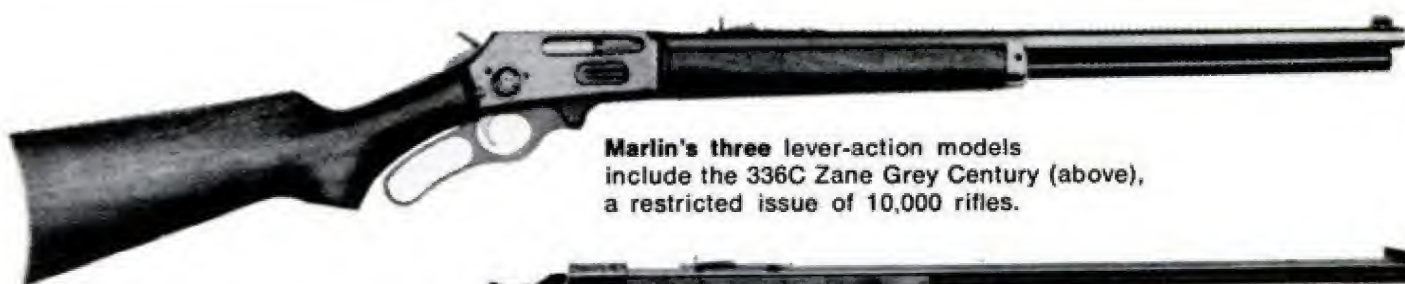
Save the box the gun came in and any booklets with it. Many purchasers of Winchester's '66 Centennial threw the carton away. Those special boxes are worth more than \$25 today. The best guide to what a gun is worth is the \$1 *Price List* published by Cherry's Sporting Goods, Geneseo, Ill. 61254. It's considered a collectors' standby.

Virtually every U.S. gun manufacturer and several well-known sporting goods houses have issued some form of commem-

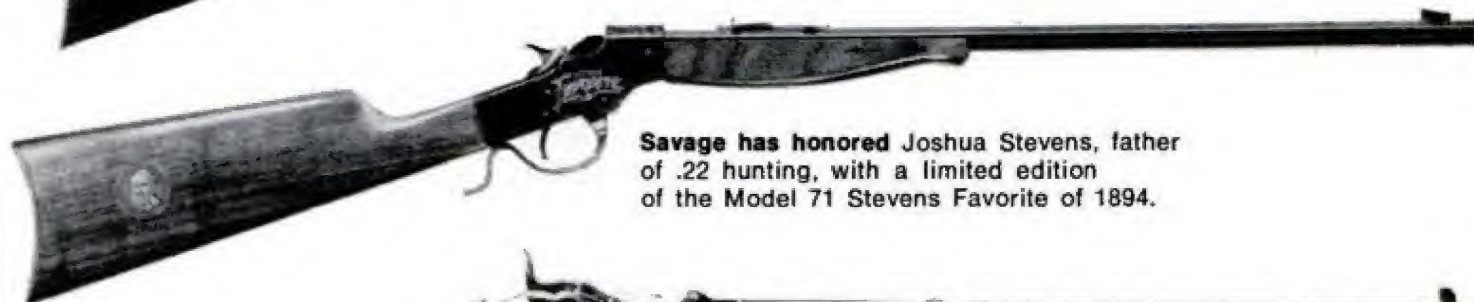




**Colt .45 auto**, boxed at top center, is WWI model honoring second Marne battle. Top left: Colt's New Jersey .22; below, .36 R.E. Lee cap and ball. Center, boxed, are Navy Arms Colt .36, Remington .44 replicas. Upper right: boxed Colt .22 Golden Spike Model with commemorative spike. Below right: model of the U.S. Grant Colt .36.



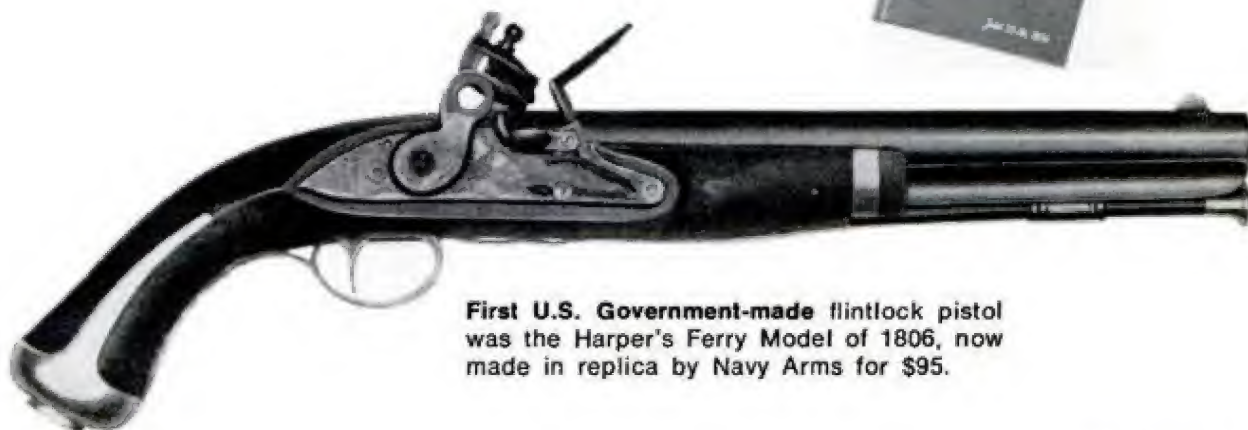
**Marlin's three lever-action models** include the 336C Zane Grey Century (above), a restricted issue of 10,000 rifles.



**Savage has honored Joshua Stevens**, father of .22 hunting, with a limited edition of the Model 71 Stevens Favorite of 1894.



**Little Big Horn Carbine**, from Harrington & Richardson, is a replica of the 1871 Springfield 45-70, comes with book.



**First U.S. Government-made flintlock pistol** was the Harper's Ferry Model of 1806, now made in replica by Navy Arms for \$95.



## In 10 years, many have doubled in value

orative. The big year was 1971 when NRA commemoratives came out. Even Daisy issued an NRA Centennial carbine. Some makers like Colt and Winchester issued their commemoratives with fanfare, while Remington, the country's oldest gunmaker, celebrated its 150th anniversary quietly. In 1966 Remington issued seven different shotguns and rifles to celebrate. They had "Remington Arms Company, Inc. 1816-1966," and a flintlock rifle design surrounded by scrollwork engraved and gold filled on the left side of the receiver. Most of these guns are being used by happy hunters, but the entire series in mint condition would make a fine collection.

Colt is the big daddy of commemoratives and started the ball rolling with the 125th Anniversary Model of the single-action .45 in 1961. Since then, Colt has issued more than 100 commemorative pistols, mostly single-action models chambered for .22 or .45 cal. In 1967 Colt started its World War I series with a \$200 specially decorated and inscribed .45 Auto commemorating the Battle of Chateau Thierry. Since then, three more WWI models at \$220 and two WWII guns at \$250 have been issued. Deluxe and Special Deluxe versions list for \$500 and \$1000 now.

One recent Colt issue is the matched set of Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant Commemorative Navy Model .36 cap and ball pistols. The handsomely cased pair with powder flask, bullet mold, nipple wrench and tin of percussion caps was offered for \$500. The fitted, velvet-lined black-walnut case makes an attractive display for any den or study. Only 250 matched sets were produced; resale value should rise rapidly.

Savage Arms Anniversary Edition of the 1895 rifle was issued in 1970; some may still be at gun shops. This collector's model features a crescent-shaped brass butt plate, inlaid brass medallion on the stock, gold-filled engraving on the blued receiver, brass-finished lever and cartridge carrier and a Schnabel fore-end. The 24-inch tapered octagon barrel is chambered for the .308 Winchester (7.62-mm) cartridge and tipped with a brass blade front sight. Production stopped at serial No. 9999 and the price was \$195. While a true commemorative, the gun is based on the famous Savage

Model 99; many purchasers will find it hard not to try the 1895 for hunting.

For collectors sticking to .22 cal., Savage offered the Model 71—a limited edition of the famous Stevens Favorite—for \$75. A medallion on the stock is inscribed "Joshua Stevens, father of 22 Hunting," and the case-hardened receiver has "Stevens Favorite" inscribed in gold on both sides. Model 71 has a 22-inch octagon barrel, Schnabel foregrip and gold-plated lever and hammer. The Favorite, issued in 1894, was the first rifle chambered for the .22 long-rifle cartridge developed by Joshua Stevens.

Iver Johnson started producing single-shot percussion pistols in 1871, and 100 years later the firm that still bears his name issued a set of Centennial Commemoratives to honor the founder. Available only in .22 cal., four revolvers were offered as singles or a boxed four-gun set with the same serial number. Limited to 450 sets, the four guns are the M-67, M-50, M-55A and the M-57A. The blue/black revolvers have six-inch barrels, polished hammers and triggers, gold front sights and the gold lettering "1871 IJ 1971" in a square on the frame. The four-gun set retailed for \$298.50; single-cased guns, from \$69.50 to \$85.

Winchesters won the West and are leading the field in total commemorative rifles. Their first was a modified Model 94, The Wyoming Diamond Jubilee Carbine, produced in 1964. Real interest in commemorative Winchesters started in 1966 with the Centennial '66 rifle and carbine. Called Old Yellow Boy because of its brass-colored receiver and butt plate, the Model 1866 sold like hot cakes from a chuck wagon. Winchester added significance to many models by issuing them in conjunction with historical organizations. For example, the Buffalo Bill rifle and carbine had the endorsement of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Assn. More than \$500,000 in royalties were paid by Winchester, enabling the association to enlarge its museum in Cody, Wyo.

Commemorative rifles have also been issued in conjunction with the Theodore Roosevelt Assn., Golden Spike Centennial Commission, Game Conservation International, National Cowboy Hall of Fame and National Rifle Assn. Purchasers of these

*(Please turn to page 185)*





1



3



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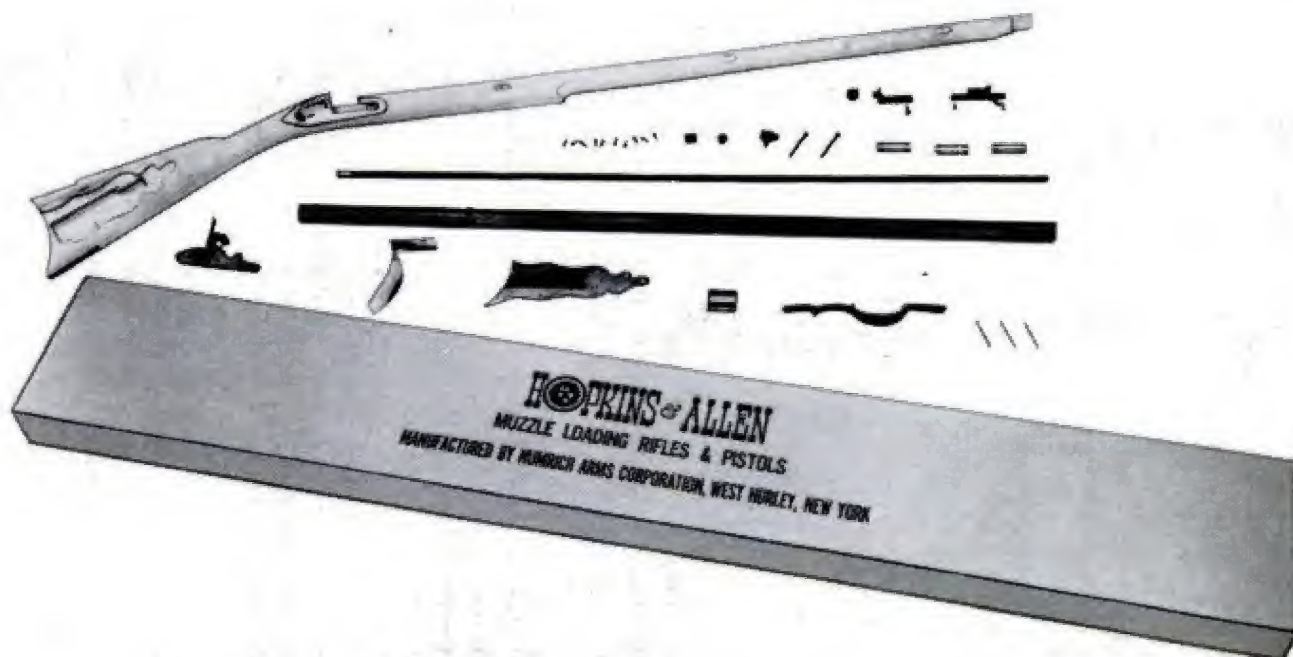
1. Iver Johnson sets of four Centennial .22-cal. revolvers were limited to 450 having the same serial number, \$299.

2. High Standard Olympic Commemorative Model .22 Supermatic Military Trophy was timed for '72 Olympics, priced \$550.

3. First Smith & Wesson commemorative honors 150th Texas Ranger anniversary with a Model .357 Magnum, Bowie knife.

4. For a do-it-yourself replica, a \$100 kit from Numrich Arms provides building parts for muzzle-loader Minuteman rifle.

4





# A 'black box' that tests boats



**Maneuvering at speed** is one good test of boat stability and safety. Black-box readouts and observations of this tri-hull showed it could handle its rated power safely, might use a higher-horsepower motor.



**Swinging wide** around marker buoy on test program's slalom course, the driver is dodging an imaginary swimmer or log ahead while reading the boat's stability rating on the meter of the black box.

PHOTOS BY AL LIMBURG

## A meter dial may soon be pointing out good boats—and bad ones

by Red Marston

**H**ow much horsepower you can clamp on the back of your outboard boat used to be determined by the size of motor you could afford. Too often it seemed to be the bigger, the better.

Now bigger engines and new boating laws make using excessive horsepower impractical, illegal and dangerous. Overpowering has been found to be one cause of boating accidents. Presently, the Coast Guard requires all outboard craft to have a capacity plate stating the weight load of passengers and the amount of horsepower a boat can safely carry. A formula that computes boat length times transom width in feet is applied to a table of coefficients, and the result is the highest horsepower allowed.

This is considered a generally reliable method, but recent tests made in an on-the-

water evaluation at Naples, Fla., proved again that performance is also considerably influenced by hull design. Two boats with almost exactly the same dimensions, according to the formula, may perform differently with the same amount of power. Could a set of instruments be assembled to determine if a hull and motor combination was safe and efficient? Boating engineers from across the country came to find out.

It was decided tests should explore the tricky relationships between boat shapes and horsepower limits under conditions where sudden maneuvering has to be done. A slalom-like course, similar to that used by water skiers, was laid out. A total of 43 boats made 292 test runs over it. Each had an instrument package installed to record signs of instability and grade good matching of hull and power.

Tests were conducted by the Boating Industry Assn. (BIA), and the Outboard Marine Corp. test center at Naples was headquarters for the massive job of rigging over three dozen new boats with various horsepower combinations—some deliberate-





**1 Experts on shore** noted performance of boats running through course traps to be certain black-box readings correlated with real characteristics of hull at speed.



**2 Spinning out** in a spray shower, hull hidden here behind a water wall showed it could not handle rated power, became unstable in a tight emergency turn wide open.

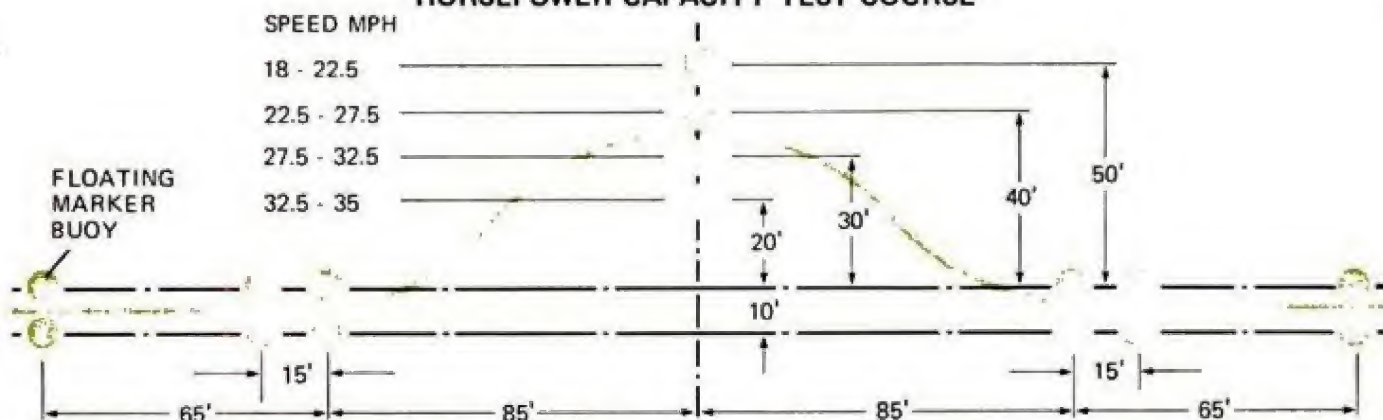


**3 Black-box engineers** set up rig so meter at helm position would give constant stability reading as cockpit instruments recorded.

**4 Outboard hulls** of all varieties, 43 in all, were rigged for speed stability black-box tests. Many proved under or over-power-rated.



#### HORSEPOWER CAPACITY TEST COURSE



Craft with top speed of 27.5 to 32.5 mph drives course shown to swerve around obstacle buoy, test handling.

ly over the formula limits—to test reactions on the water. Driving over the courses was handled by experienced boat testers. A “jury” of expert observers watched carefully to insure that the instruments recorded all signs of instability.

The boats, from 13 to 24 feet long, were first clocked over a measured distance to determine top speed in miles per hour. Craft topping 35 mph ran a longer course with 120 feet between the maneuvering markers and only a 10-foot deviation for speeds above 42. One of the theoretical considerations of the course was a boat operator having to make a violent turn to avoid a swimmer or floating log. The instrument package, referred to as “the black box” by the test participants, was programmed to

record stability on a 1-to-10 scale. The more unstable, the higher the readings.

A week of testing showed Donald Reed, director of engineering for BIA, that Coast Guard regulations now based solely on the industry-developed formula should be amended to allow boats to be rated by a test-course method. Test results showed some boats tended to spin out during maneuvering with recommended power, while others could handle additional push. Tests with the black box might also point out a bad hull design before it went into production, and it is hoped the box will be available to boat builders within a year. Meanwhile, boat owners, even without the “black box,” can experiment with their own test courses—carefully.

★★★



# New line on boat ropes

The latest slippery synthetics are hard to knot but more than twice as strong

by Bob Whittier

Go to your marine dealer to buy some rope and you are likely to find yourself staring at a bewildering assortment. Today there are so many colors, sizes and types of material that you may be tempted to pick one kind and try to use it for every purpose afloat or, worse still, go back to using an old length of clothesline.

Effective and safe handling of even the smallest boat requires the use of rope, so a working knowledge of modern cordage is indispensable. Some of the new synthetic ropes are so superior that they can save you a lot of money and possibly your boat as well. Often craft that have gone adrift from dock or mooring are seen with broken lines of the wrong type and size.

In ropemakers' language, anything one inch in diameter or less is called "cordage." As the size decreases, the words to use are rope, cordage, twine and string, in that order. For boatmen, the word "rope" refers to the product only while it is still in the store. Once aboard, it becomes "line" such as dock line, anchor line, towline. Light ropes (actually cordage) used to hoist sails and flags are called halyards. The rope used to position the boom of a sailboat is called a sheet.

Old boatmen had to be familiar with natural fiber ropes such as manila, hemp, sisal, henequen, coir, linen and cotton. Manila is the only one of these still in much use afloat. Cotton used to be favored for lines aboard sailboats because it had a good "hand," which meant it was comfortable to grasp. Now it is being replaced by more durable synthetics. Never use an old cotton clothesline as a dock or anchor line; it's likely to break and you'll lose your boat.

Sisal rope today is mostly a rough grade offered in 50 and 100-foot lengths in bargain

stores. It has about 80 percent of the strength of manila and suffers from rotting. Though cheap and useful for binding bundles ashore, it should not be confused with stronger manila.

Manila rope is still universally available and is often the only kind at hardware stores far from yachting centers. It appears low in price, diameter for diameter, when compared with synthetics, but the latter are usually 150 to 290 percent stronger. A thinner synthetic can be selected to do a given job safely, and the first cost then is not so much greater. It lasts so much longer than manila that the final cost is even lower.

Manila has its good and bad points. It will take any common knot or splice easily and dependably. It is easily grasped and held, and is still popular for anchor lines on small boats where sunlight soon dries it out. But if stowed while wet in a rope locker,



Above and below the water, nylon has the stretch to absorb wave shocks, plus life to fight off borers, rot.



it will quickly lose its strength from rot. It is also hurt by acids, oils and other chemicals.

Used as a mooring line in the water, it can be attacked by pollutants, slime and marine borers. Constant immersion accelerates deterioration of its vegetable fibers and it can lose 50 percent of its strength in one summer. It can, however, be bought treated to resist rot and marine growths, and a boatman can treat his own manila with rope preservative.

Popular synthetic ropes include nylon, polyester (sold under trade names like DuPont's "Dacron"), polypropylene and polyethylene. There are others, and some special-purpose synthetic ropes made of blends. A boatman may encounter many trade names; study manufacturers' literature to sort these out. Most pleasure boatmen can get along with the four basics mentioned above.

*Nylon rope* is up to 290 percent stronger than manila and considerably more durable. It does not rot and is not attacked by marine borers. It can last five times longer than manila, but can suffer from prolonged exposure to sunlight and sometimes stiffens after long immersion in colder water. It is slightly heavier than water and sinks. Nylon's outstanding characteristic is its elasticity. It stretches under load and has excellent shock resistance. It makes a good anchor, mooring or towline but is poor for

lines used to adjust the set of sails and is sometimes tricky when used on a winch. Because it stretches under load, some knots tend to jam tighter in it.

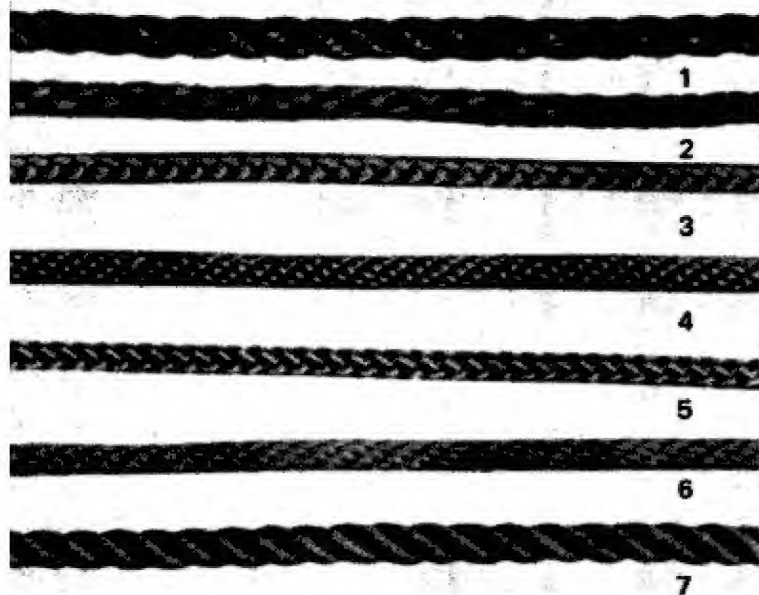
*Dacron rope* is called both Dacron and polyester, depending on the maker. It has slightly less sheen than nylon, and is about 220 percent stronger than manila. Like nylon, it is resistant to water and chemicals, will not rot, can safely be stowed while wet, and will sink. Its outstanding characteristic is that it stretches very little. This makes it favored for lines on sailboats that are used to hold sails in place in the proper shape. Dacron makes a poor anchor or mooring line because it does not stretch to absorb jerks.

*Polyethylene and polypropylene rope* are much alike. Polyethylene has about 160 percent more strength than manila and polypropylene about 175. Both gain about five percent strength when soaked in water, where nylon tends to lose five to 10 percent. Both are rot and mildewproof and are highly resistant to common chemicals. They are less elastic than nylon, more so than manila, and make good general-purpose towlines. A water-ski line, for example, should not be too rubbery. The outstanding feature of polyethylene and polypropylene ropes is that they float on water indefinitely. As towlines they will not sink and foul the towboat's propeller. In some forms, they tend to be stiff and hard and often do not hold knots very well. Clips and splicing are

**Rope used for winches**  
(from left): steel, nylon, solid braid and diamond polyethylene.







**Old and new ropes** include twisted manila (1), diamond braid polyethylene (2), pimm sheet for comfortable handling (3), solid braid nylon (4), V-braid nylon (5), solid braid polypropylene (6) and twisted cotton (7). Choice depends on strength, price, "hand," long life.

used to make secure connections. The use of these ropes is growing rapidly.

Any suitable material can be made into rope, either by twisting or by braiding. Common manila is an example of twisted construction, common sash cord of braided. The machinery used makes twisting faster and usually a cheaper method—a useful point to know when comparing ropes.

Modern synthetic fibers are made by extrusion. The material in liquid state is squeezed out of a tiny nozzle like toothpaste from a tube, after which it hardens into long filaments that are wound on spools or bobbins. Rope made from continuous strands like this is called monofilament rope in contrast to spun rope made from short strands. Some synthetic ropes can be slippery, so for certain uses where a good hand grip is necessary, such as in commercial fishing lines, sailboat sheets, and industrial uses, the monofilament can be chopped, spun into yarn and made into spun synthetic rope. Since the strength of any spun rope depends on the friction between the many filaments for resistance to slippage between the strands, spun synthetic ropes tend to be less strong than monofilament ones of identical synthetic material, although generally above the strength of manila.

When a twisted rope is bent sharply, strands on the outside of the bend are stretched and may break. Strands in braided rope lie more diagonally to the rope's length

and are strained less in a bend. Braided rope is favored for sailboat lines for this reason when it must go through pulleys. Often sailboat lines pass through jam cleats and deck winches and need uniform diameter and compression to work well. Solid or "double braided" rope, rather than "hollow," is best for this. Hollow braided ropes are used for ski tow lines, small anchor lines and jobs having few or no pulleys.

While synthetics will usually accept and hold knots, there are pointers to know. Knots that depend on friction can be less reliable when used in a slippery rope. Nylon can slip excessively when used to make a common cleat hitch or square knot. A stiff braided rope can tend to "back off" some knots and hitches. Rope makers publish pamphlets with good advice on selecting knots to match your rope; your marine dealer may have some. The average boat owner is safe with the general rule that a rope's working strength should be only about one-fifth its rated breaking strength. For a small boat, a thin synthetic may be strong enough but hard to handle so it is worthwhile to buy a larger diameter that is easier to use.

Synthetic ropes are now available in a variety of colors, with a light coffee color recently popular for yachting use. Olive drab synthetic is frequently military surplus that may be overaged. Colored strands woven into a rope may be a maker's trademark or indicate special-purpose rope. Check the maker's literature. Polypropylene and polyethylene use colors to make them more visible while floating on the water.

While water and rot are the enemies of natural fibers, sunlight tends to damage synthetics. Store them in a cool shady place if possible to take full advantage of their long and useful life. ★★★

### Which rope to choose—where to use it

**Sisal:** For economical bagging, wrapping ashore.

**Manila:** General-purpose economy use. Don't store damp. Treat with preservative for underwater use.

**Dacron:** Use as sailboat lines for high strength and low stretch.

**Nylon:** Dock, anchor, mooring lines where stretch acts as shock absorber. More expensive, stronger, longer life. Won't rot, but hardens in sun.

**Polyethylene and polypropylene:** Use for floating line for ski towing. Slippery, holds knots poorly.

**Strength ratings:** Manila, 100 percent; polyethylene and polypropylene, 160 to 175 percent stronger than manila; nylon and Dacron, 220 to 290 percent stronger than manila. For boat use, choose diameters that are easy to handle.



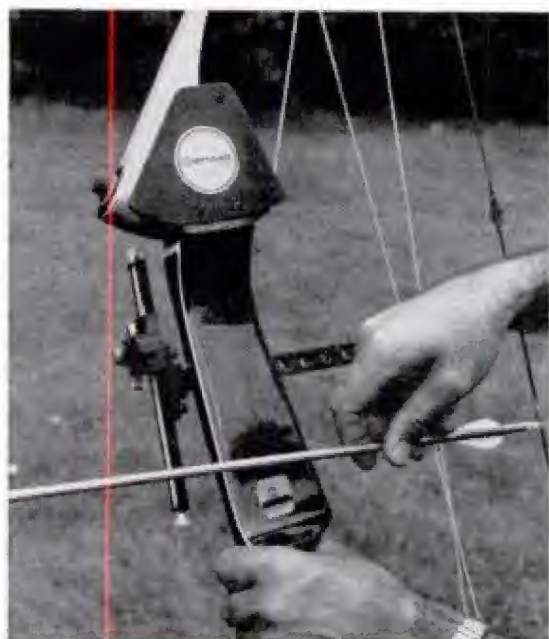


# Bow for far-out archers

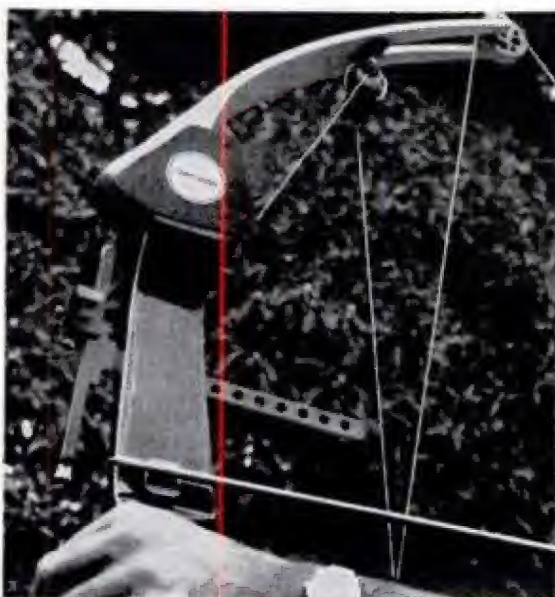
by Penny Nicolai

PHOTOS BY MARIO ROMO

Cable system increases bow strength while front rod balances it.



Sight can be set for range and windage.



Eccentric sheave tops limb for added push.

The English longbow was good enough for Robin Hood and several centuries of other archers, but now science has stepped in. Today's bows are laminated, recurved and equipped with sights, and now there is a trussed-up model that could have caused nightmares in Sherwood Forest. It's called the Jennings Compound Bow, has 75 parts, and looks like a rigger's puzzle with its jumble of sheaves, cables and eccentrics.

The block-and-tackle system of crossing cables, however, is designed to make it impossible to bend one limb more or less than the other, adding to stability. With less limb movement needed and less inertia to overcome, the increase in force is said to improve arrow speed by 20 to 50 percent.

At the end of each limb is a small wheel with its axis off center. These eccentrics act as levers. In effect, they increase the length of the bow, decrease the pull weight at full draw, and make holding much easier while aiming. The eccentrics also create an acceleration of the string on arrow release that is claimed to be smoother than with recurve bows and allows use of lighter arrows because of less distortion.

The compound bow can be disassembled for storage or left strung without damage. Individual limb flexibility as well as bow weight is adjustable. The model shown is fitted with a Williamson Miletron scope and a stabilizer jutting out in front. A tournament bow costs about \$250 from Jennings Compound Bow Inc., 10945 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, Calif.

And is this bow more accurate? All bows are inherently accurate if properly used. Putting an arrow in the center of the target is still up to the archer. ★★★



# Cars the Red Baron would love!

The dogfighters you meet on the road are in for a tough scrap against the superb performance and handling of these two new German imports—passenger cars, at that!

by Bill Hartford  
AUTO EDITOR

Cars made in Germany are special in a lot of ways. Even GM brags about "German precision imported by General Motors" when they talk about the Opel. What German craftsmanship means to the average driver who's simply looking for a "good car" is that the doors close gently with a *click* and a *clunk* instead of a "slam!"

It means something else entirely for drivers who know that cars made in Germany are designed to spend a good part of their lives running flat out on autobahns because there are no speed limits! The enthusiastic driver probably also knows something about the history of the racing cars, and the production cars, made by Audi, BMW, Opel, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche. And he certainly is concerned with the vehicle dynamics of any car he's driving because they affect the decisions he makes behind the wheel.

The average driver who takes a close look at the new Audi Fox or the Mercedes and sees how they are put together will appreciate that they are "good cars," but it will take a turn behind the wheel and an above average interest in cars to realize *how good*. In the case of the Mercedes-Benz 450SE, or longer-wheelbased 450SEL, it is simply the best-engineered, safest, produc-

**Flying high**, the new Mercedes-Benz 450SE pulls Gs against the test-track wall while a pair of Audi Foxes dice through the pylons in a display of maneuverability.







tion passenger sedan you can buy in the United States. When that is what you want (and there's only one place to get it!), the SE's price of \$13,500 is not unreasonable—not when domestic “luxury” sedans, comparably equipped, are pushing \$10,000. It is not even really a fair comparison: Most often, the purchaser of a Mercedes is concurring with an engineering philosophy that he wants and gets in a Mercedes-Benz automobile; too often, the buyer of a domestic, luxury car is seeking something else, not necessarily having anything to do with cars or their real worth.

In the case of the Audi Fox, it is, at \$3399, the best car in its price range that is at once an economical family sedan and a lightweight acrobat that will do everything you want it to—except Immelmann turns! The Fox weighs a scant 1840 pounds (over 100 pounds lighter than the VW Super Beetle) which is the prime reason it moves out so smartly with a liter-and-a-half displacement.

The engine is a 1471-cc, water-cooled, overhead-cam, in-line Four that nets 75 hp at 5800 rpm. That results in a favorable power-to-weight ratio and you can expect 0 to 60 times in the 10-second range. Top

speed should be close to 100 mph at the 6500-rpm redline. We ran the car at Palm Beach International Raceway but didn't top 90-mph before having to brake at the end of the straight (front discs and rear drums are in a dual-diagonal circuit and are vacuum-assisted).

It is under heavy braking especially with unequal traction between left and right wheels that the car's “self-stabilizing” steering geometry does its job. A skilled driver could prevent a locked-wheel skid from developing into a spin, but with negative kingpin offset (see technical drawing), there's no need to work at controlling the car; the locked-up wheel is prevented from wrenching the car's steering. It works so well that the Fox can be hauled down to a stop with hands off the steering wheel, while one side of the car is running on a slippery, soaped-up surface as we witnessed at the Raceway.

It is this stability, and the fact that the Fox does not compromise a smooth and steady ride for light weight and nimble handling, that should make the car attractive even to drivers used to the dubious comfort and security of a “big-car ride.” That's not to mention a 91-octane fuel con-



sumption that we estimate to be around 30 mpg and never under 25 mpg, not even in hard, high-speed driving.

The Fox is also convincing that a car can be small outside and big inside. (It's 164.4 in. long, 63 in. wide and 53.9 in. high on a wheelbase of 98.2 in.) The interior is roomy, comfortable and neatly laid out. There's plenty of headroom, which is only slightly reduced when the optional sunroof is fitted, and seats are fully reclining.

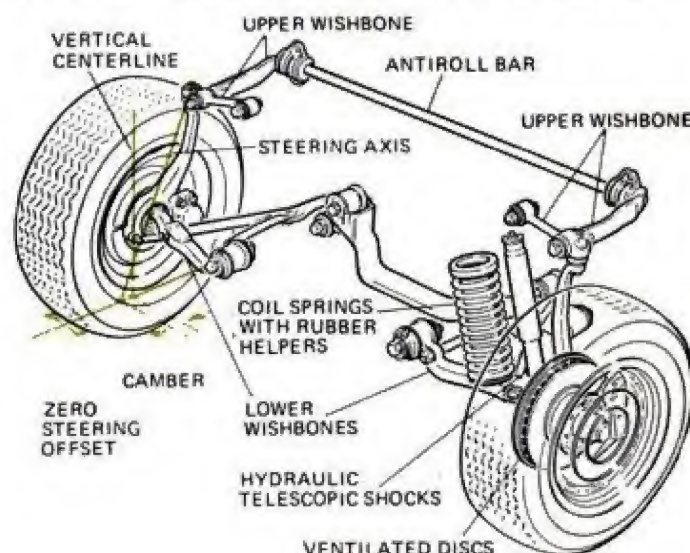
Everywhere there is a sense of order and neatness that is perhaps greatest under the hood. What catches your eye first is the transparent cover on the fuse and relay box. Through it you see all the fuses lined up in a row. And, like VWs, the car is equipped with plug and wiring for computer diagnosis. Service intervals are every 10,000 miles.

The Fox is fascinating enough by itself, but it is even more intriguing since VW will soon have a version of the car that will differ only slightly.

A Fox running 90 to 100 mph on the autobahn still has to move over for a Mer-

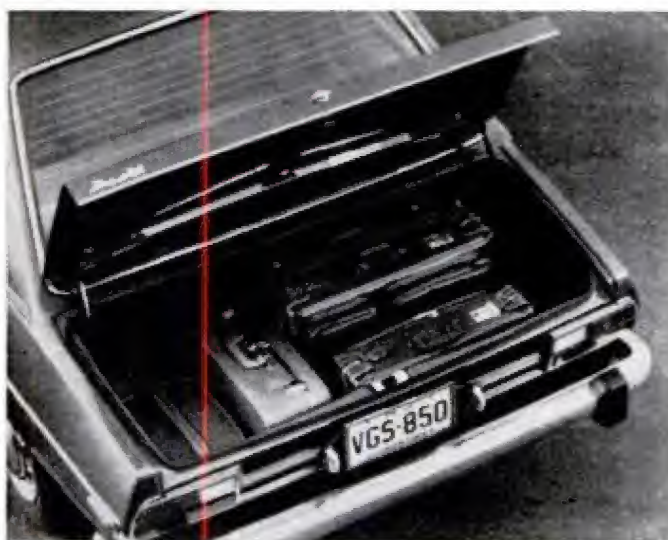


#### MERCEDES-BENZ 450SE/SEL FRONT SUSPENSION

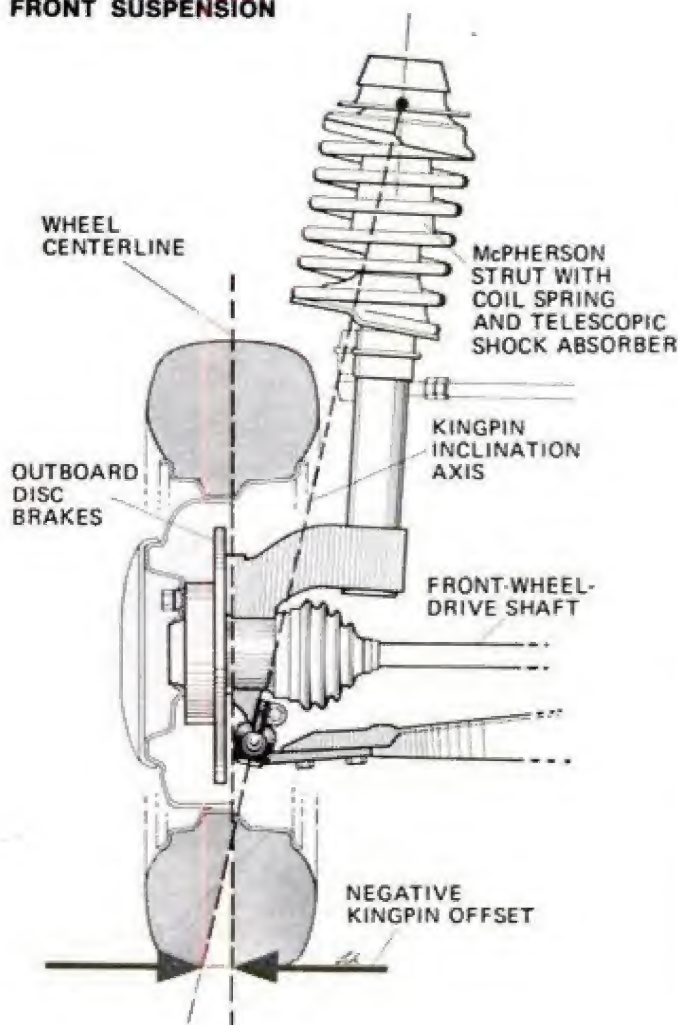


**Mercedes 450s** are four-door, luxury sedans with near-race-car handling. Front suspension, in fact, was developed for the C-111 experimental sports car (See "The World's Most Advanced Car" page 88, Jan. '70 PM). Car uses no front-axle carrier or "subframe." Pivoting axes of upper and lower wishbones are nonparallel, designed to cross each other for antidive control under braking, which is only one benefit of front geometry (see text). Front seat's three-point shoulder/lap belts retract into body pillars, and antidazzle wing mirror, adjustable from inside, breaks away under impact.





#### AUDI FOX FRONT SUSPENSION



cedes-Benz. A 450SE or SEL is capable of closing at speeds greater than 130 mph. We drove the SE at an indicated 130 mph earlier this year and realized that what is so extraordinary about the car is not that it is a luxury passenger car capable of getting up to that speed, but that it has been designed and engineered to be at home at such a speed, that it puts minimal demands on the driver and that it stops quickly and controllably from that speed.

That's why driving it at 60 to 70 mph around the New York area recently was such an interesting experience: you knew that no matter what the road surface, how sudden the maneuver or panic stop, the SE was trifling. And I think that most drivers will be able to feel this even if they have not driven it at speed. Even a simple test drive is a consummate driving experience.

A feeling more quickly experienced when you first drive the car is not its amazing stability in sudden, violent inputs to the steering, but its easy maneuverability:

*(Please turn to page 179)*



**Audi Fox** is a front-wheel drive sedan available in two and four-door models. Introduced last year in Europe as the Audi 80, it has clinched an enviable list of "Car of the Year" awards. Workmanship is impeccable, acceleration surprising and handling safe and predictable. The "self-stabilizing" steering system works on principle of negative kingpin offset (positive on most cars) to provide a restoring torque under braking. Interior layout is roomy and neat. Four-speed synchro is standard; three-speed automatic transmission is optional. The trunk is especially large for the size of the car.



# Four electronic kits for your car

by Ivan Berger  
ELECTRONICS EDITOR

PHOTOS BY ROBERT D. BORST



Flanked by two tachometers (left, ArcherKit tach from Radio Shack; right, SWTP digital) are Radio Shack's Archerkit windshield wiper delay (center left) and Eico's Model 1080 inverter/battery charger.





Today's cars are full of electronic circuits, from radios and tape players to tachometers, windshield-wiper controls and various types of alarms. But if your car lacks any of these gadgets, you can add them with do-it-yourself kits.

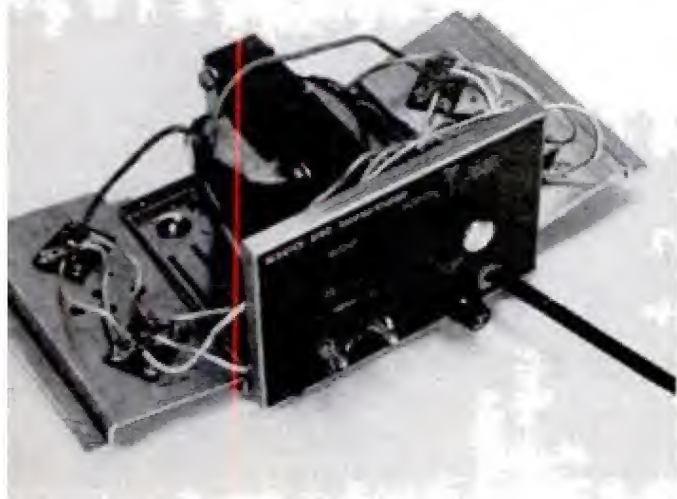
We checked out four such kits from three manufacturers: an Eico kit that doubles as both an inverter for running a.c.-powered tools and gadgets from your car battery and as a battery recharger; a Radio Shack ArcherKit that operates your windshield wipers in bursts to clear off light rain, and two tachometers—a dial-type ArcherKit and a digital tach from Southwest Technical Products.

The Eico 1080 inverter is just one of three such kits. The lower-priced 1070 and 1075 are lower-wattage units (110 and 160 watts respectively) than the 220-watt 1080, and only the 1080 doubles as a battery charger. That's logical, since the more power drawn from your battery (unless the engine's running, of course), the more likely it is to go dead.

As an inverter, the 1080 can run many 117-volt power tools, vacuum cleaners or other devices you may want to use in your car—even several at once, as long as they draw less than 220 watts total. Draw more and you can damage the unit, so no toasters or coffeemakers for roadside snacks. (We even blew the output transistors trying the unit with a too-hefty electric drill.) Like most inverters, the 1080 doesn't necessarily deliver an exact 60 Hz., so you can't usually drive clocks, tape recorders and phonographs with it. And since the output is an unfiltered square wave (not the smooth a.c. sine wave you get from the power company), radios or receivers powered from



**ArcherKit tachometer** mounts on your dashboard (top) or under it—just swivel the tach within its case. The kit is an easy one to assemble, and takes but five hours, plus another hour or two for installation.



**Eico inverter** converts 12-volt power of your car's battery to 117-volt a.c. so you can run small tools and appliances. Small number of parts (center left) and the wide-open construction (near left) make it easy to build this kit in four hours.



## The two tachometers took radically different approaches

the 1080 may pick up a lot of noise, unless they have excellent built-in power-line filtering.

As a battery charger, the 1080 automatically regulates the charge to the battery, reducing it as the battery approaches full charge. Even so, Eico doesn't recommend it for use as a trickle charger.)

As you'd expect from its wide-open construction (and from the small difference between its \$44.95 kit and \$59.95 wired prices), the 1080 was a cinch to build, taking just about four hours. We found only one design goof: though Eico recommends you use regular jumper cables for the battery connections, the 1080's 12-volt terminals are so close together that it's hard to avoid shorting your battery clips together. However, there's plenty of room to move the negative terminal to one side, if you don't mind drilling an extra hole before assembling the kit.

The \$12.95 ArcherKit windshield wiper delay was another useful and easily built addition to the car. Switch it in, and your windshield wipers operate in bursts (adjustable from one second long to continuous operation), spaced up to one minute apart. That makes it perfect for those drizzly days when you'd otherwise be constantly switching your wipers on to clean the windshield, then off again to keep the blades from squeaking.

It's easy to install (just two wires to your fuse block and two to the wiper switch), and looks like it shouldn't take much longer than an hour to build. I took 2½ hours, but only because I disregarded the printed circuit board and wired the parts together directly, so I could fit them into a mini-box about half the size of the space-consuming case that Radio Shack provides.

The two tachometers we tested took radically different approaches to their jobs. Radio Shack's ArcherKit is a thoroughly conventional type, reading from 0 to 8000 rpm in a 240° sweep around a ¾-inch illuminated dial. It can be used on any four, six, or eight-cylinder, four-stroke engine with a 12-volt electrical system. Like most electronic tachs, it connects to your car's battery and coil with three leads. The tach can be rotated to any desired angle within the case, so you can mount it above or below

the dash (or sideways, if that's more convenient) and still have the dial right-side up. The adjustable redline indicator can be set wherever you like—but unfortunately, neither Radio Shack nor any other manufacturer I know tells you how to figure out the proper setting. Assembling the tach took only five hours; installation time, which varies from car to car, would be additional.

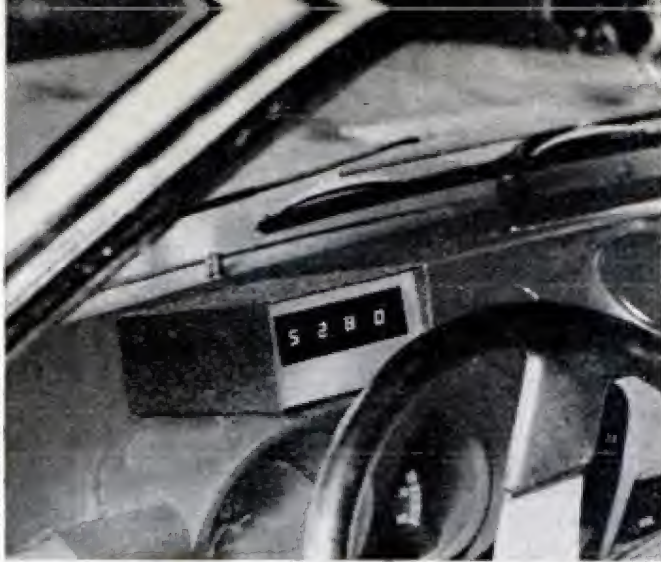
But today's trend in instruments is away from dials like the Archer tach's to direct digital readouts. Hence, the Southwest Technical Products digital meter. A glance at its display shows your engine's speed precisely to the nearest 10 rpm—no need to interpolate your rpm from a needle moving between calibrations spaced 200 to 500 rpm apart.

It seems a great idea, until you think about it. Because only rarely—when tuning your engine, for example—do you need to know your exact rpm. When driving, you're more interested in how far up into your engine's rev range you've gone, and how close you are to its best shift points or to its maximum recommended (redline) speed. A dial tach tells you all this at a glance, as its needle climbs up or drops back around the dial. But a digital meter, though it tells you precisely where you are at any moment, doesn't tell you where that spot is within the range under consideration. You have to memorize the significant numbers (admittedly, no difficult task) to interpret the tach's readings correctly.

More seriously, the SWTP tach lacks any redline indication to warn you as you over-rev. That's probably not inadvertent, since a redline indicator (especially one adjustable for any car) would raise the tach's already high price (\$79.95) even higher. And adding a redline indicator yourself is almost out of the question; for one thing, there's no leftover space within the case.

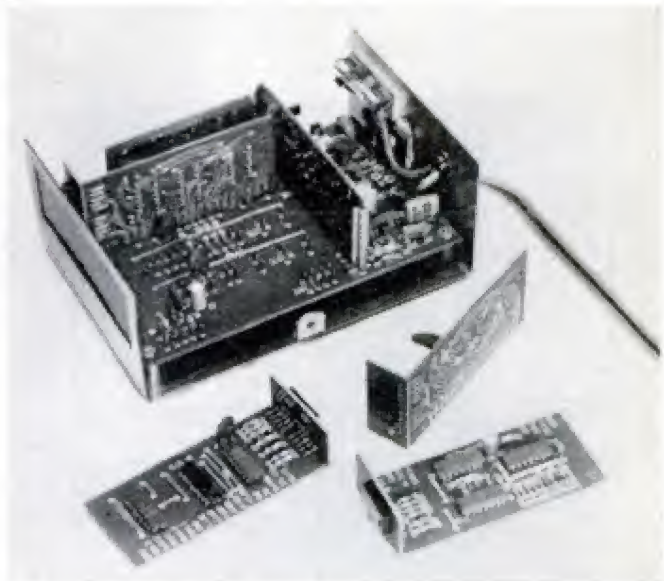
The digital-tach printed circuit boards were well thought out (though two holes on one board hadn't been drilled); parts layouts were neat and uncluttered and component positions were clearly marked. The division of the circuitry among seven modules (three of them identical) made both construction and error-checking easier, and the modules fit together easily and accur-





1

2



3

**Digital tach** (1) is shown just sitting on dash; SWTP makes no real provision for mounting it. Tach's modular design (2) simplifies construction (3) and service, but modules aren't too secure (see text). Wiper delay (4) is probably the simplest and most useful of the kits, but takes a lot of under-dash space (5).



4



5

ately. Even the unique connecting wire showed intelligence: A flat cable of three color-coded wires laid edge to edge, it made the right connections very easy to identify. And the instruction book, though not as well bound as, say, a Heathkit manual, was clearly written and illustrated.

Nonetheless, construction took nine hours, not counting the complications caused by missing components (less than 10 of them, but still more than average), a pair of diodes that could not be told apart, and some misprinted circuitry on one board. And because the bent-wire contacts that connect the circuit modules to each other don't make secure enough physical or electrical contact, the reading could be changed by squeezing the tachometer case, and might change with normal vibration when the car was on the road.

We say "might" because we haven't road-tested the tach yet. On top of everything else, Southwest Technical made no provision for mounting it.

For further information, write: Eico, 283 Malta St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207; Radio Shack, 2617 West Seventh St., Fort Worth, Tex. 76107; and Southwest Technical Products, 217 West Rhapsody, San Antonio, Tex. 78216.

★★★



# Those under-\$200 receivers: Yes, they're really hi-fi

by Andy Santoni



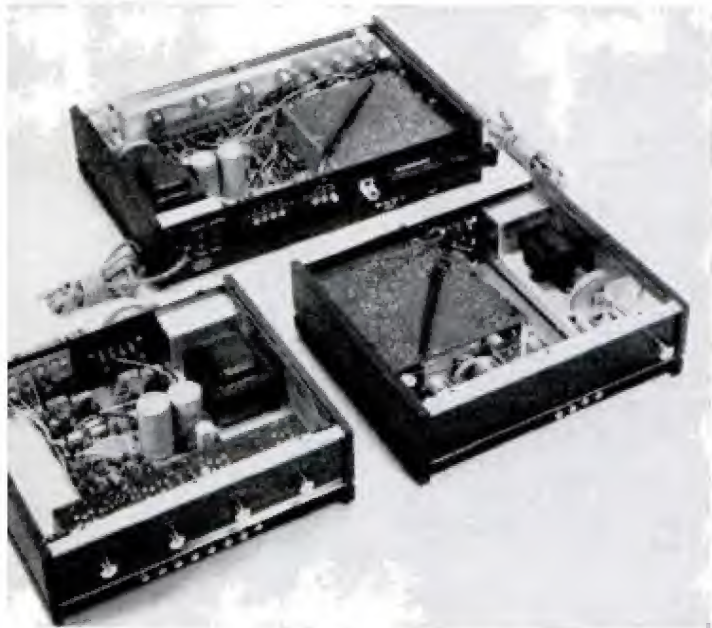
**Even inexpensive components look fancy today.** From bottom to top: Pioneer SX-424, Sylvania CR2742, Fisher 170 and Heathkit AR-1214 receivers, followed by Pioneer TX-6200 tuner, Heathkit AA-1214 amplifier, Kenwood KA-2002 amplifier, and Heathkit AJ-1214 tuner.

These days, you can expect quite a lot from stereo receivers in the \$200 price range. Major hi-fi manufacturers offer surprisingly good low-cost stereo components (though the price is rapidly changing: thanks to the dollar's fluctuations, the under-\$200 receivers I tried out for this article will probably cost a bit over \$200 by the time you read this).

And a stereo receiver usually is your best choice for a low-cost component system. Audio buffs and dealers dwell on the advantages of separate tuners, preamplifiers and amplifiers, or high amplifier power, but if you're going to listen to your system in a small room or at low volume levels, they'd be a waste of space and money. And 4-channel receivers in this price range are so absurdly low-powered (under 10 watts RMS per channel) that you're best off deferring your move to quadraphonic sound until you can afford to do it right—and you can, without wasting your investment in stereo components, by plugging in adapters.

Of course, separate tuners and amplifiers offer greater flexibility and choice than receivers of comparable quality: You can choose a more powerful amplifier and less sensitive tuner (or vice versa), instead of a receiver's generally balanced capabilities; and separate components let you upgrade





**Pioneer TX-6200 tuner** (top) isn't much smaller than the Pioneer SX-424 receiver it's sitting on, though the receiver has both tuner and amplifier. Most tuner dials, today, black out when power's off—we show them lit across the page.

**Heathkit AA-1214 amplifier**, AJ-1214 tuner show a strong family resemblance to AR-1214 receiver, using same circuits on the same circuit boards. Heathkits have fewer features than other units shown, but this makes them easier to build.

your system in smaller, less expensive steps.

But whether you choose a \$200-range receiver or its equivalent tuner and amplifier, you'll get performance and features you would have had to pay a lot more than \$200 for a few years back. Take the Fisher 170, for example—about as typical a receiver as you'll find in this class. Its continuous power output is 14 watts per channel at 8 ohms—pretty close to average and enough to drive even fairly inefficient speakers to high volume levels without noticeable distortion. (Though this is the most rigorous standard for measuring amplifier power, most components in this price range cite the IHF dynamic power at 4 ohms more prominently, often skipping continuous power altogether. By this less demanding standard, the Fisher would rate at 48 watts total.)

The Fisher's FM tuner specs ( $2.5\mu\text{V}$  IHF usable sensitivity, 40-db selectivity and 64-db ultimate tuner signal-to-noise ratio), also about average, are good enough to pick up most FM stations cleanly, and clearly separate the stations that crowd together in a big metropolitan area like New York. Like its competitors, it also picks up AM.

Control facilities include all the basics you'd expect in a good component receiver: a large, easy-to-use tuning knob, an FM station dial with linear spacing (no bunching up of stations in one part of the band), separate controls for volume, stereo balance, bass and treble (not a single combined tone control, as on cheaper systems), a stereo mono switch, switched loudness compensation, a speaker selector switch and tape monitoring facilities.

The stereo-mono switch is useful when you listen to old mono records or weak stereo-FM signals. Switching in the loudness compensation boosts the bass at low volume levels to compensate for the ear's low-level bass losses. And the speaker-selector switch lets you shut off the speakers when listening through headphones, or switch on a pair of extension speakers for listening in another room (but though most of these switches allow both sets of speakers to be connected at once, few of these receivers have enough power to drive four speakers adequately).

Tape monitor facilities are a lot more useful than they look. They're designed for use with three-head recorders that let you check the quality of the recording by play-



Preamp-out and amp-in jacks on this Kenwood amp simplify use of accessory equalizers or 4-channel adapters, while leaving tape monitor jacks free. A bolt-on plate locks the preamp-amp separation switch in whichever position you prefer.



## Makers of \$200-and-under receivers

Akai America, Ltd., 2139 East Del Amo Blvd., Compton, Calif. 90220.  
BSR (USA) Ltd., Route 303, Blauvelt, N.Y. 10913.  
Concord Div., Benjamin Electronics, 40 Smith St., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.  
Elco Electronic Instrument Co., Inc., 283 Malta St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207.  
Fisher Radio, 11-40 45th Rd., Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.  
Harman-Kardon, Inc., 55 Ames Court, Plainview, N.Y. 11803.  
Heath Co. (Heathkit), Benton Harbor, Mich. 49022.  
Hitachi Sales Corp., 48-50 34th St., Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.  
JVC America, Inc., 50-35 56th Rd., Maspeth, N.Y. 11378.  
Kenwood Electronics, 15777 South Broadway, Gardena, Calif. 90248.  
KLH Research & Development Corp., 30 Cross St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.  
Lafayette Radio Electronics, 111 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, N.Y. 11791.  
Magnavox, 345 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.  
Milda Electronics, 2 Hammerskjold Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017.  
Mikado Electronics, 1072 Bryant St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103.  
Nikko Electric Corp. of America, 5001 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, Calif. 91601.

Olson Electronics, 260 South Forge St., Akron, Ohio 44327.  
Onkyo, 25-19 43rd Avenue, Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.  
Panasonic, 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.  
U.S. Pioneer Electronics, 178 Commerce Rd., Carstadt, N.J. 07072.  
Realistic, Radio Shack, 2617 West Seventh St., Fort Worth, Tex. 76107.  
Rotel of America, Inc., 2642 Central Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10710.  
Sansui Electronics, 32-17 61st St., Woodside, N.Y. 11377.  
Sanyo Electric, Inc., 1200 West Walnut St., Compton, Calif. 90220.  
Sherwood Electronic Laboratories, Inc., 4300 North California Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60618.  
H.H. Scott, Inc., 111 Powder Mill Rd., Maynard, Mass. 01754.  
Sony Corp. of America, 47-47 Van Dam St., Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.  
Spectrosonic, 1301 65th St., Emeryville, Calif. 94608.  
Superscope, Inc., 8150 Vineland Ave., Sun Valley, Calif. 91352.  
Sylvania Electric Products Co., 700 Ellicott St., Batavia, N.Y. 14020.  
Toshiba America, Inc., 280 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

ing it back as you're taping. But a number of other accessories can also be plugged into the monitor jacks, including equalizer-type frequency balance controls, and four-channel decoders. A few receivers and amplifiers—such as the Kenwood KA-2002 amplifier shown—have separate preamp-out and power-amp-in jacks that can also be used for these accessories.

Two receivers I tried even had some 4-channel facilities built in. One, the Sher-

wood S-7100A, had a rear-panel FM 4-channel jack to feed an accessory decoder for four-channel multiplex broadcasts should they—and the decoder—become available.

The other was Sylvania's CR2742, which had a built-in "passive" 4-channel decoder (the type that divides the output from two amplifiers among four speakers). It adds some spacious quadraphonic "feel" to regular stereo material and quadraphonic discs, though it won't usually distribute the four





**Tape monitor jacks** can also be used with 4-channel adapters, so Pioneer marks its rear panel for both functions. Large multipin tape connector is for single DIN plug.



**Speakers plug** into Pioneer receivers, amplifiers, making it easier to wire in speakers, switch connections, or remove the receiver, no matter how tightly it's crammed in place.



**Pioneer tuner** has two pairs of output jacks; one with constant level, one with adjustable output level. Clamp below 75-ohm antenna screw holds round, shielded 75-ohm cable.

channels precisely the way the quadraphonic record producers intended.

The Sylvania receiver has a number of useful features that aren't quite as common in its price class as the Fisher's. Its front-panel controls include high and low-frequency filters (handy for cleaning up noisy and hum-plagued signals or scratchy records) and a muting switch that cuts out both FM interstation noise and stations too weak to be heard clearly (if you want to hear a weak and distant station, you switch the muting off). Its extra set of phono

inputs mystifies me (if you can afford two turntables, why not buy a more expensive receiver?). On the other hand, I see a lot of sense in Sylvania's making those inputs switch-selectable for either magnetic or ceramic cartridges, so you can use it temporarily with a cheap ceramic while you're upgrading an inexpensive system.

If the Sylvania's list of controls is impressive, so are the controls themselves—unusually solid-feeling pushbuttons and toggles and an edgewise tuning knob that takes some getting used to (as did the odd placement of the stereo-mono switch, between the AM and Phono selector buttons). At 22 watts per channel (continuous power from 20 to 20,000 Hz into 8 ohms), it's also one of the most powerful receivers in its class. Impressive, especially from a company you think of for TV consoles, not stereo components.

But Sylvania has no monopoly on ingenious features. Even testing just nine components, I found several items worth remarking about. In control features, for example, the Pioneer receiver has click-stops at the center positions of its treble, bass and balance controls, helping you find their neutral settings. Kenwood's amplifier has tone controls with click-stops every two db around their scales, that let you reset your controls precisely. Still another tone-control feature is found on one of the units I didn't check out, the Toshiba SA-410. Its "MFR" bass and treble controls can be set to start working at 1000 Hz, like most tone controls,





**Unique tape-dubbing jack** on the front panel of the Sherwood S-7100A receiver serves as tape in or tape out, according to setting of tape monitor switch. Extruded lip surrounding tuning dial and main (tuning and volume) controls is a distinctive styling accent. Four-channel jack on rear panel awaits whatever quadraphonic FM broadcasts systems may arise.

or to come in at 400 and 4000 Hz respectively if you prefer to leave your mid-range frequencies unaffected.

I would have liked to see a high-blend switch on some of these components, to clean up noisy stereo FM broadcasts without reducing them altogether to mono. But I don't know of any receivers in this price range with that feature.

Just about all receivers and amplifiers today have front-panel headphone jacks, but two of these receivers have other front-panel jacks as well. Pioneer's contribution is a monophonic microphone input for use in recording (or just amplifying) your voice or other sounds; but, since using it shuts off the other inputs, you can't sing along with your records or radio broadcasts. Sherwood's front-panel extra is a jack for dubbing to or from an external tape recorder, depending on the tape monitor switch setting. Another convenient tape connection is a rear-panel DIN socket on the Pioneer and Kenwood that lets you make all four connections to a stereo recorder with just one cable.

Pioneer also has unique connections for speakers—flat-bladed plugs that make it easier to plug, unplug and switch speakers (especially if the receiver's mounted in

cramped quarters) and to wire in the speakers without shorting the leads together (which can damage some receivers). In addition, the Pioneer—and several other units—have fuses protecting the speakers and output sections.

Heath's AR-1214 receiver and AA-1214 amplifier have one internal feature I didn't notice on the other units: phono level controls. Adjust them to match your phono cartridge's output, and you can switch from phono to FM or any other source without having to simultaneously readjust the volume control. Other than that, though, the Heaths are spartan-simple. The AR-1214 is the only receiver I tried that lacked a tuning meter and a speaker-selector switch. And though it is the least expensive receiver in this group, it's also the only one you have to put together yourself (Heath calls it a "5-evening kit," but it took me 15 hours). I'd recommend it if you enjoy kit-building (as I do), or if you're interested in good performance at minimum cost and don't mind doing without a few frills. I could say the same about the AA-1214 amplifier and AJ-1214 AM/FM tuner—both good basic separate components in kit form.

All of the components in this group are modest performers, compared to today's



medium and high-priced equipment, but the difference is seldom as easy to hear as it is to spot on a spec sheet. Unless you live in Radio City Music Hall or the Grand Canyon, you probably don't need more than a few watts per channel for normal listening levels. With moderately efficient speakers (though they're getting harder and harder to find these days), a receiver that can deliver 10 continuous watts of power or more per channel will still have some power in reserve to prevent overloads on peaks like cymbal clashes or plucked guitar transients.

That's where "dynamic power" comes in, as a partial index of transient overload ability: Of two receivers with the same continuous power capability, the one with the greater dynamic (or "music") power will handle peaks a little better.

Certainly, a budget receiver won't handle deep bass as powerfully or as cleanly as an expensive one, but you'll probably use it with inexpensive speakers that couldn't deliver all that bass no matter what receiver they were used with. I've heard speakers for not much more than \$50 each that were good—well-balanced and clean-sounding—but they still didn't have the bass capacity of higher-priced ones. When you listen through headphones, of course, the difference in power becomes academic (though the difference in signal-to-noise ratio between these and more expensive receivers may sometimes be noticeable).

The same holds true for FM specifications. The IHF sensitivity of even these low-priced receivers is rapidly approaching the theoretical limit, and is very close to that of even the most expensive tuners (Heath's AR-1214 has 2.0  $\mu\text{V}$  sensitivity; its \$380 AR-1500 has 1.8  $\mu\text{V}$ ). Ultimate signal-to-noise ratios—even more important specifications than IHF sensitivity—are pretty similar in both low-priced and high-priced components.

Where the high-priced components do pay off is in low distortion (especially on loud peaks), better amplifier signal-to-noise ratio, and their tuner sections' greatly increased resistance to interference (such as that caused by man-made noise, other stations, and multi-path signal reflections), and in the provision for additional features, of course.

So there are many situations where a comparatively low-priced receiver can be well worth buying. If you want a stereo system in a vacation home, a second system in another room (the playroom, for example), or to take off to a college dorm, it is ideal. And, of course, it could be your main equipment if you're starting to build a component system on a modest budget. All in all, today's \$200 receivers sound (and often look) so good that you may never notice that they didn't cost a great deal more—until you check your bankbook. ★★★



Chrome-plated knobs and levers stud the Sylvania CR27-42A's control panel; they feel just as solid as they look. Black bar at the lower right is an edgewise tuning knob, which takes some getting used to.



# How to track down a handling problem

by Mort Schultz

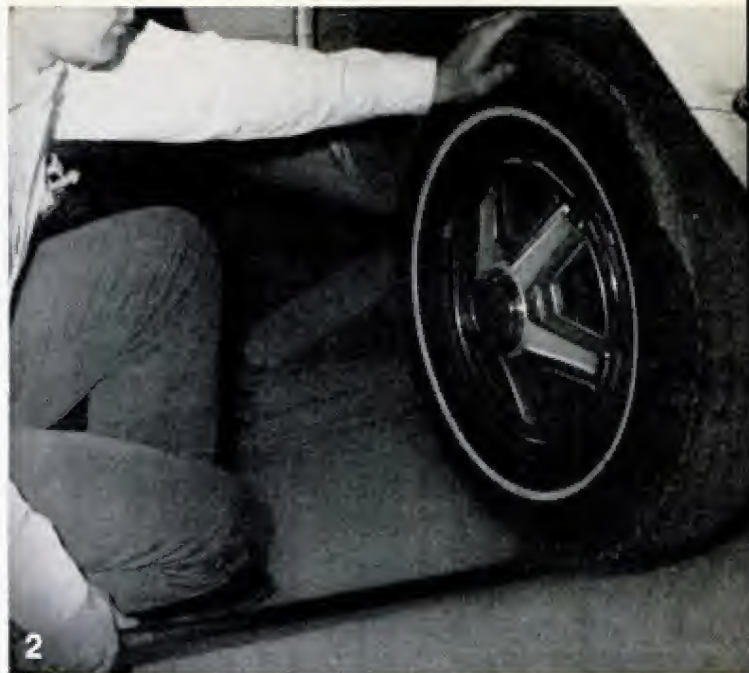
**Front-end alignment** is the adjustment of camber, caster and toe-in. When adjusted to spec, most handling problems are eliminated. There are other things to check before paying for a front-end alignment, however.

**D**o you find out that you need a front-end alignment by waiting for your tires to wear? Or should you spend \$15 regularly to align your front end when it may not need alignment? Neither is advisable. What you should do is develop a sensitive feel for your car from behind the wheel. When a car's front wheels are out of alignment, its handling characteristics and steering are affected. Before suspecting faulty front-end alignment, though, check steering and suspension components. Start by examining shock absorbers.

If you see an obvious oil leak from a shock, seals have probably failed and the component should be replaced. A light film of oil is normal, so don't discard a good shock. If your car has new shock absorbers (less than a year old), keep in mind that recent developments in seals have lessened the likelihood of failure and leaking. But







this doesn't eliminate the fact that shock absorbers wear out internally, so even if they don't show signs of leaking, check for wear. Give the car a jounce at each corner. Push down and up on the bumper several times, increasing the length of the stroke each time. Release the bumper at the bottom of a down stroke.

If up-and-down movement stops quickly, the shock is probably okay. But if the car bounces two or more cycles, the shock should be removed for further testing before a decision is made to replace it.

Worn or damaged ball joints adversely affect handling. Ball joints of some 1973 models have visual wear indicators. If the seat of the nipple is flush with or inside

**1 To check that shocks** are doing their job of damping up and down movement, jounce car at each corner and observe that movement stops quickly.

**2 Excessive play in ball joints:** For a quick way to test, try to move wheel up and down vertically. A "clunk" indicates looseness probably in excess of manufacturer's tolerances. For an accurate check, use gauge (see text).

**3 Too much side-to-side play** indicates a need for wheel-bearing adjustment.

**4 To seat wheel bearings** after lubrication or replacement, spin the wheel as you snug up on the spindle nut.



the joint, the ball joint is worn. In other models and those prior to '73, ball-joint condition is checked by taking the load off the load-carrying member with a jack. In some cars, this will be the lower ball joint—in others it is the upper ball joint.

With the load relieved and wheel and tire off the ground, place a pry bar beneath the tire and apply an upward force. This tests the joint's axial (up-down) motion. Place your hand on top of the tire as you measure axial movement. If there is motion and a "clunk" as the pry bar is pushed up and released, suspect ball-joint wear.

Manufacturers provide their own specifications for how much axial movement is permissible. Find out what the specification is for your car. A simple cardboard gauge to measure ball-joint wear comes in a new ball-joint repair kit called "Shimmy Stop". If you're not sure just how worn are your ball joints, you can pick up the gauge free where "Shimmy Stop" is sold.

Check front-wheel bearings next. Raise the front wheels so they hang free. Grasp a tire at the top and bottom, and push in and pull out. If more than very slight movement is felt, bearings may need adjustment.

Manufacturers recommend different ways of adjusting front-wheel bearings, and you should follow their instructions. Generally, however, you remove the hub cap, pull out and discard the cotter pin and pull off the spindle nut cap. Then spin the wheel and simultaneously run up the spindle nut until it is snug. This seats bearings.

If the wheel has a brake drum, back off one castellation slot. Turn back to the nearest cotter-pin hole and install a new pin—wrap its legs securely around the nut. Turn the wheel to check for binding.

If the wheel has a brake disc, bearings are seated as explained above. Then back off the spindle nut until it begins to loosen. Then run it up hand-snug. Loosen the nut until a hole in the spindle lines up with a slot in the nut. Insert a new cotter pin and test for binding.

With the car raised, look carefully at the steering linkage. Any bent parts? Grasp and shake tie rods, pitman arm, idler arm and relay rod. Looseness indicates a worn member that should be replaced.

Check tires for sidewall bulges that indicate damage to sidewall plies. Radial tires, of course, show a normal sidewall bulge. Adding air in excess of recommended pressure to eliminate the bulge will overinflate the tire and lead to excessive tread wear.

Incorrect tire inflation can be a chief cause of almost every type of troublesome symptom affecting handling, including wander, pulling, sway, shimmy, hard steering and tire squeal on turns. Make sure tires are inflated (when cold) to recommended pressure before road-testing your car.

Here is a basic road-test procedure listing symptoms and some most likely causes:

1. *Start by gripping your steering wheel tightly and driving at 15-20 mph.* If steering seems jerky—that is, if you feel the shock of one wheel and then the other as





they roll over slight bumps in the pavement, check for the following:

- ☐ Steering-gear damage, damaged steering linkage component, damaged suspension part (ball joint, spindle).
- ☐ Tire-wheel assembly imbalance.
- ☐ Out-of-round or cupped tires.

2. *Drive across railroad tracks on a slight angle at 15 to 20 mph, feeling for shimmy.*

Shimmy is an oscillating motion of the front wheels at low speed that is felt as an almost uncontrollable movement of the steering wheel. Causes of shimmy include:

- ☐ Incorrect tire pressure.
- ☐ Loose or worn ball joints, steering linkage components or steering gear.
- ☐ Broken suspension coil spring or spring part.

3. *Drive about 60 mph with your hands placed lightly on the steering wheel.* The road should be as straight and as level as possible. You are testing for wander and wheel tramp.

Wander is the tendency of a car to drift slightly to one side and then to the other as you are attempting to steer a straight course. Wheel tramp is an oscillating motion in the front wheels at high speed that is felt as movement in the steering wheel, and in the seat of the pants.

The likely causes of wander are:

- ☐ Incorrect tire pressure.
- ☐ Loose or damaged ball joints, steering gear, steering linkage, spring parts or spindle.
- ☐ Front-end misalignment.

Conditions that usually cause tramp are:

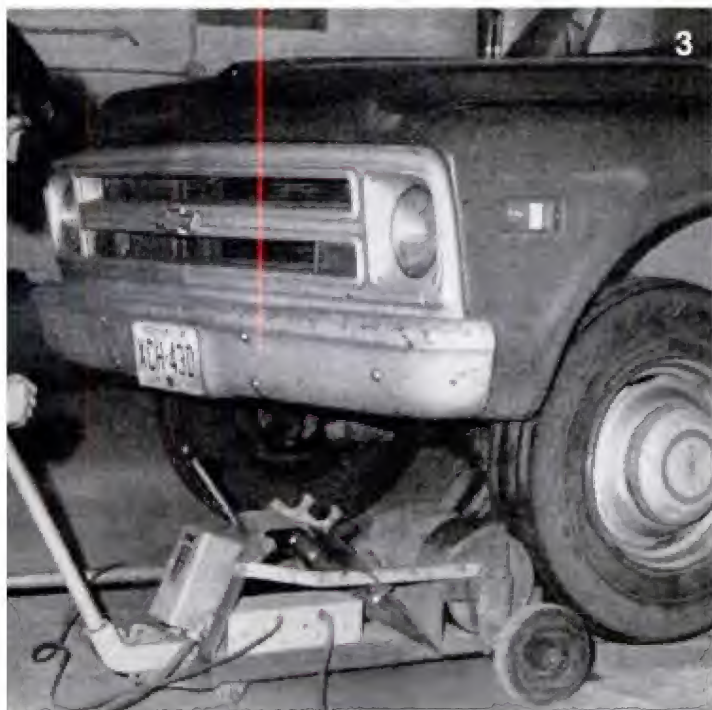
- ☐ Incorrect tire pressure.
- ☐ Tire-wheel imbalance.
- ☐ Out-of-round or cupped tires.
- ☐ Loose or worn shock absorbers.
- ☐ Possibly front end misalignment.

4. *At a speed of 30 to 40 mph, drive on a flat road with your hands off but near the steering wheel.* If your car runs straight for two tenths of a mile or more, you need not be concerned that the following conditions are causing pulling to one side:

- ☐ Incorrect tire pressure.
- ☐ Front-end misalignment.
- ☐ Unequal brake adjustment.
- ☐ Front tires of unequal diameter because of wear or differences in design.
- ☐ Wheel-bearing misadjustment.
- ☐ Steering-gear misalignment.

5. *Drive at about 30 mph on a safe, desolate stretch of road and weave rapidly from one side of the road to the other.* Determine if there is any difficulty in turning or recovery. Then make a few turns at different speeds in an empty parking lot. Notice if steering is hard. As the car comes out of a turn, release the steering wheel and see if the vehicle straightens. If a hard steering condition exists, or if steering return is poor, look for—

- ☐ Incorrect tire pressure.
- ☐ Lack of lubrication on steering linkage, in steering gear or in ball joints.
- ☐ Front-end misalignment.
- ☐ Bad steering-gear adjustment, damaged steering or suspension component. ★★



1 **Steering linkages** should be checked from the steering gear box all the way to front wheel spindles. Looseness or damage will cause handling problems.

2 **Correct tire inflation** is most important and affects handling profoundly. Side-wall bulge of radial tires with correct pressure is normal as shown here.

3 **Spinning wheels** on car allows for accurate dynamic balancing of tire/wheel assembly. Improper balance can cause shimmy, tramp, jerky steering and, of course, uneven tire wear.



# Drill-press overarm makes your router twice as handy

A portable router becomes a jig-guided carving machine when suspended by a bracket

by Wayne C. Leckey  
HOME AND SHOP EDITOR



**Among the examples of work that's made easy with a router overarm are this trinket chest and cheese cutting board. Recessed areas in the top of each are made with a core-box bit guided by pin and template. Other projects include oval picture frames and fretwork.**

**M**aking use of the rigid steel column of a drill press and its tilting cast-iron table, this clamp-on overarm makes your portable router twice as useful and handy. Held in a fixed position above the work, the router becomes a highly efficient carving tool which knows no limits when it comes to surface routing. Normally limited by the size of the router's base as to the size of recess it can bridge, here the router can span any size recess within the 15½-in. capacity of the overarm.

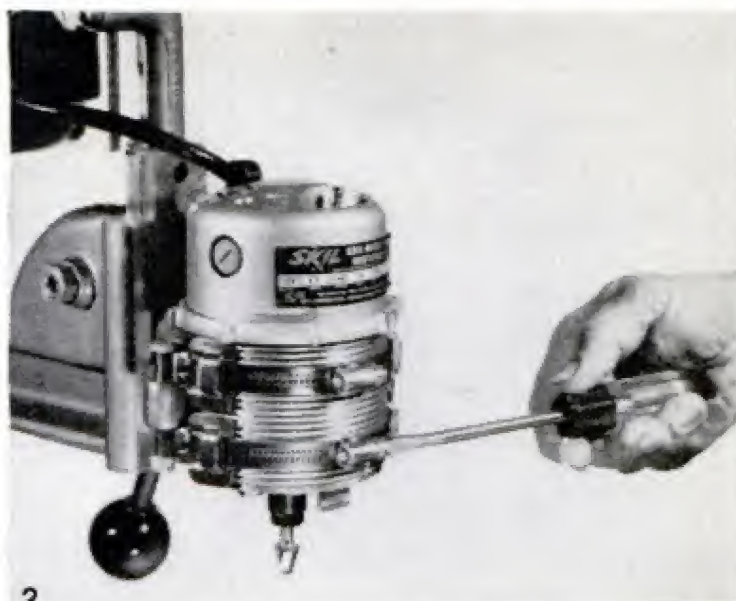
In addition, I found through the use of templates and jigs that you can mass-produce identical work with factory precision and speed. You can both rabbet and shape irregular work, such as oval picture frames, and you can do angular routing and mortising merely by tilting the drill-press table.

The rugged overarm is designed to clamp to a standard 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.-diameter drill-press column. However, if your column is smaller, or if you don't own a drill press, you can purchase a





1



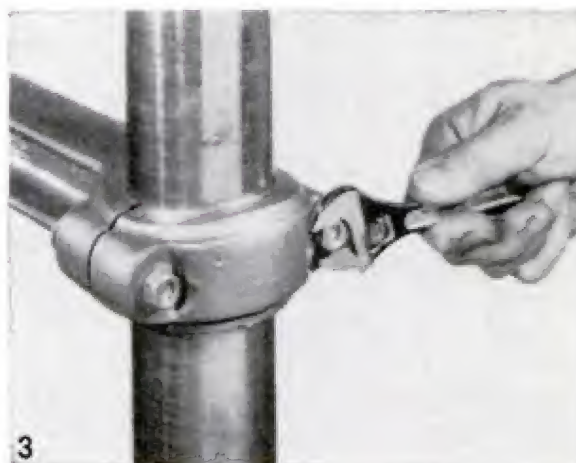
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**1 The overarm will accept** any make of portable router that has a 3 to 4¼-in.-diameter body. The router's base is removed, of course, whenever the router is to be used in the overarm.

**2 Router is held securely** in end of the overarm with hose clamps. Geared bands are tightened around router with a screwdriver. Router can be removed quickly for regular portable use.

**3 Overarm clamps around** 2¾-in.-diameter drill-press column with two bolts. It adjusts up and down on the column, swings away when not in use by loosening one bolt, holds router rigidly.

**4 Overarm has an adjustable stop** to assure identical depth when you carve duplicate items. Raising and lowering lever locks with twist of knob. Overarm extends 15½ in. from column.

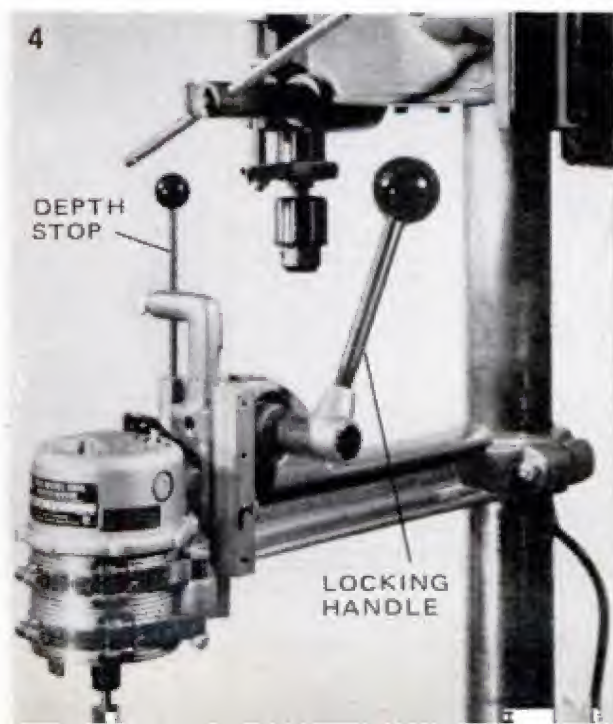


3

special 28-in. column and base for bench mounting. The overarm will accept any standard portable router having a 3 to 4¼-in.-diameter body. It has an adjustable depth stop for repetitive work, a rack-and-gear lever for raising and lowering the router and geared band clamps that make it easy to remove the router when you wish to use it with its regular base as a portable router.

Routing and carving are done with the work resting on an auxiliary wooden table consisting of a subtable bolted to the drill-press table and a free-sliding top table. The latter is movable in and out over the subtable, and has grooves for inserting a wood fence. Interchangeable starting and guide pins are held in an aluminum block which is flush-mounted with the table surface. In use, the drill-press table is swung and positioned at a 90° angle to the drill-press head, and the overarm is centered over the worktable.

While you can purchase the wooden work-

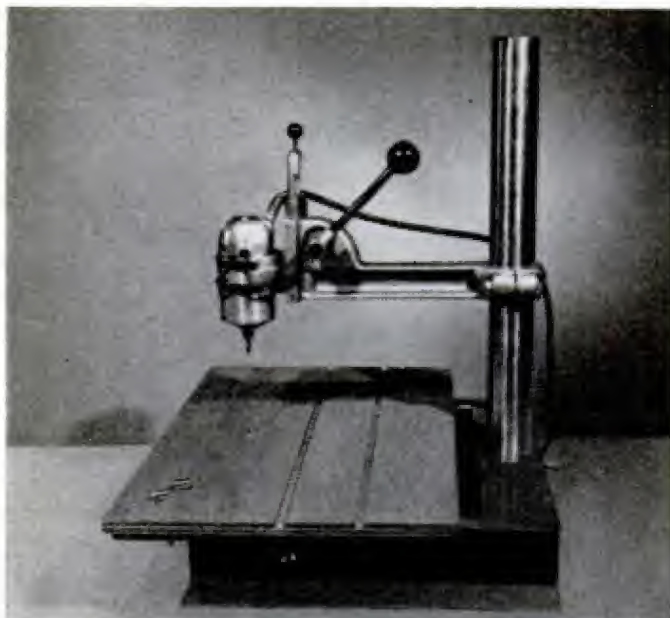


4

DEPTH  
STOP

LOCKING  
HANDLE

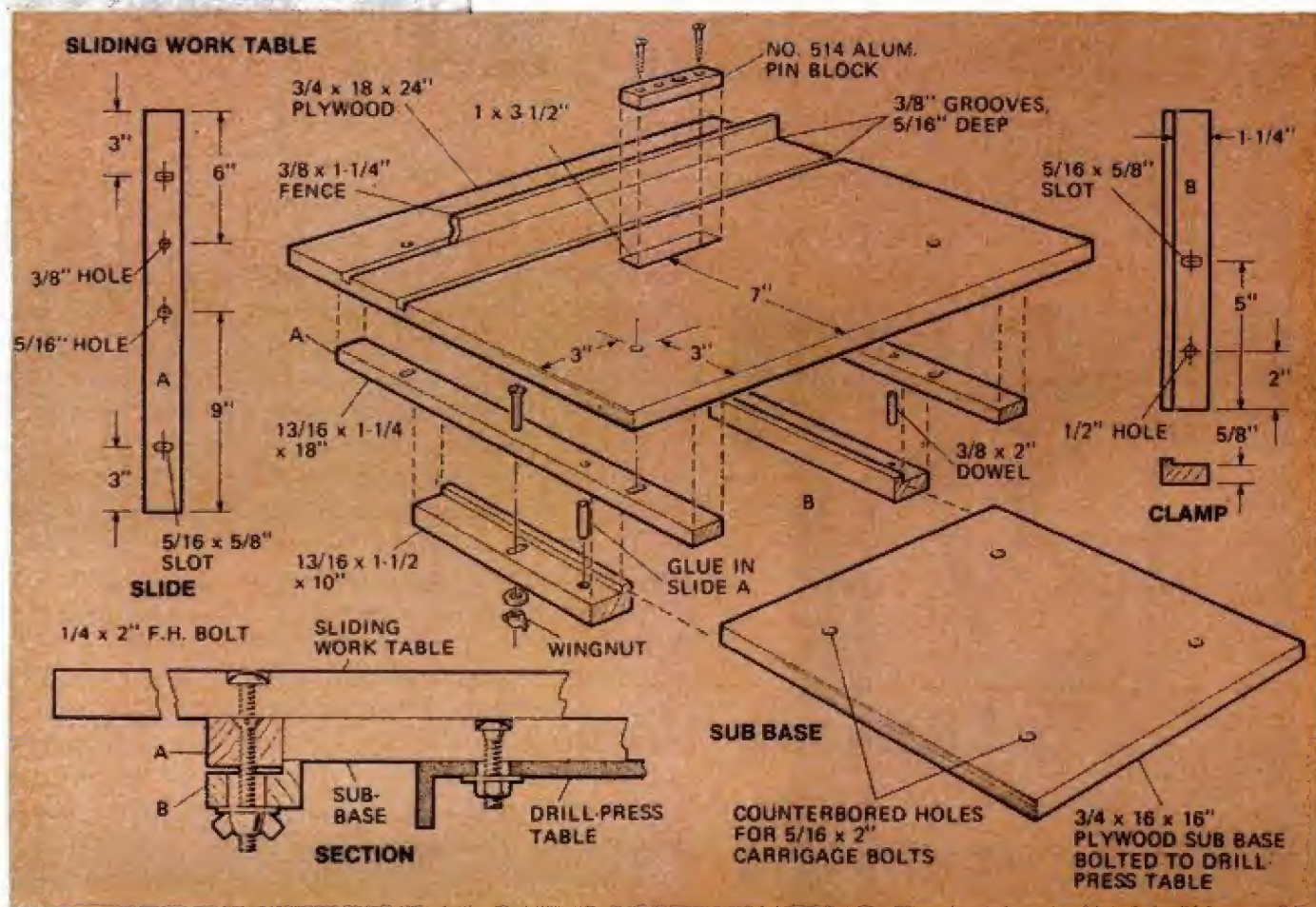
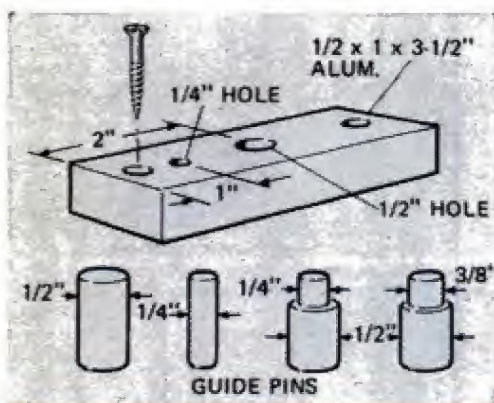




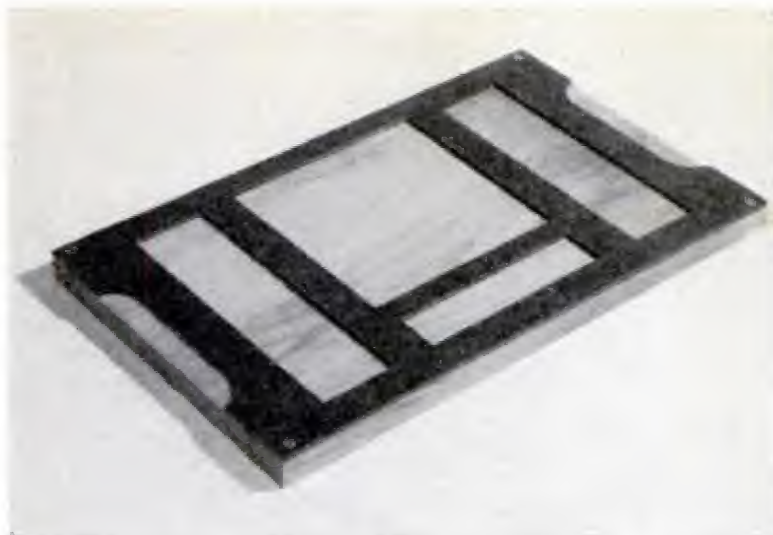
**Bench model is available** complete with a welded steel base, 28-in.-high steel column, wooden table and an overarm when a separate unit is desired.

table along with the overarm, the details below show how you can make your own. Wingnuts and clamping strips along each side lock the sliding table to the subtable. If you don't have tools to make guide pins and pin block, you can buy them as a kit. □ *Pin routing.* With a guide pin in the table and centered directly under the router bit, you can produce quantities of identical items by a method called pin routing. Here you either guide the work by holding the edge against the stationary guide pin or follow the pin around the inside of a template tacked to the bottom of the work. In each case, the finished work is identical with the pattern, and since the router bit and work are actually guided by the pin, you can't make a mistake.

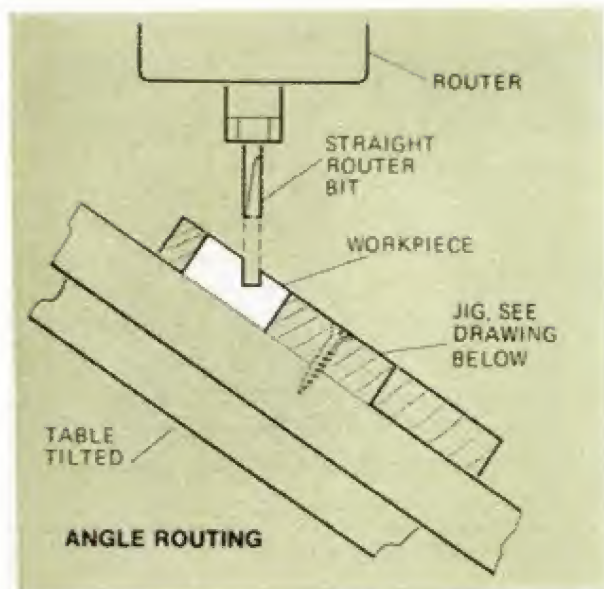
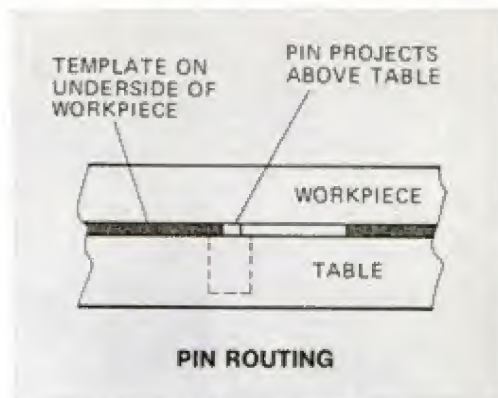
□ *Angle mortising.* Precision mortising at an angle is made easy by simply tilting the drill-press table. In this case, the work is positioned under the router bit in a special jig, the router bit is lowered into the work to the desired depth and the work





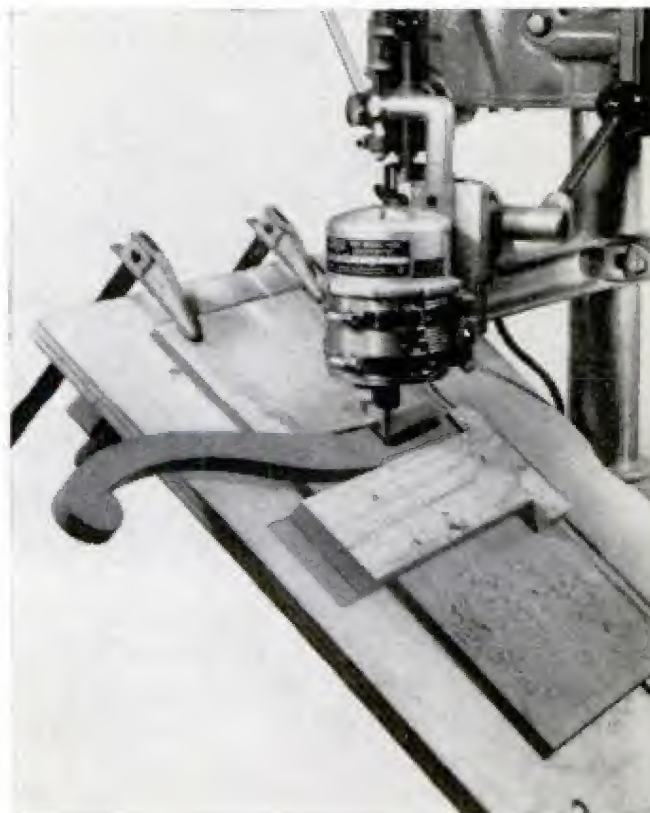


**Pin in the worktable** follows template tacked to underside of workpiece (left) to guide router bit when same outline is repeated in top surface of workpiece



**The starting pin is used** only when you are running against a pin and not in a groove. It is placed on the feed side of the worktable and to the left of the guide pin. To start the cut, the work should be placed against the starting pin, then swung clear of it when jig makes contact with guide pin.

**When overarm is used** on floor-model drill press with a tilting table (below and left) you can rout mortises at angle by tilting worktable and using jig.



is moved forward in the jig to cut the mortise.

□ **Fence routing.** For straight routing, the guide pins are removed from the table and a wood fence is placed in one of the table grooves. Then the table clamps are loosened and the table is pushed in or out to position the router bit with the work. With this setup, glass rabbets for one-piece picture frames are quickly and neatly made by passing the work along the fence. Stops attached to each end of the fence will automatically limit the length of the rabbets on a mass-production basis. Outer edges of the frames can be shaped later with a pilot-tip bit.

The overarm (less router) sells for \$124, the worktable is \$35 and the guide-pin kit \$9. They can be ordered from Bryden Router Overarm, 2407 Arden Drive, Champaign, Ill. 61820. ★★★



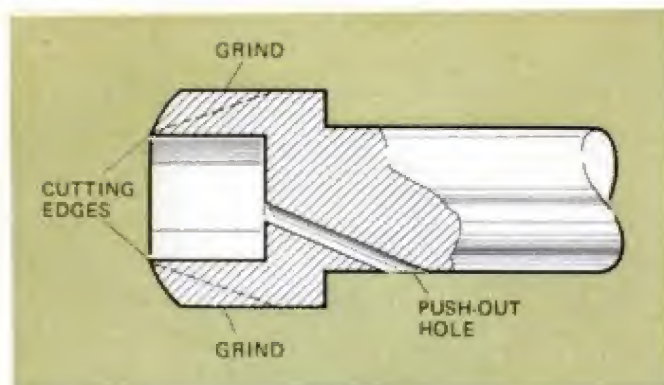
# HINTS

## FROM READERS



### Chuck adapter holds wood disc

A piece of steel shafting, 1 in. in diameter and 1½ in. long, drilled lengthwise for a screw and two nails and attached from the back, provides a simple adapter for mounting a wood disc in the chuck of a metal-turning lathe. The screw centers and holds the disc; the outboard nails keep it from turning.—*Walter E. Burton, Akron, Ohio.*



### Capscrew makes punch

You can convert a hexagonal-socket cap-screw into a hollow hexagon punch for thin materials by grinding six new surfaces for cutting edges. A diagonal hole is drilled as shown, through which cut pieces can be pushed out. An assortment of punches can be made this way from different-size cap-screws.—*Burt Web, Skokie, Ill.*



### Sleeves for cable

The sleeves used to form looped ends in ⅛-in. cable are put in place with powerful presses—seldom available when emergency repairs are needed. But you can use short sections of copper tubing for such sleeves if you clamp them tightly with lever-jaw pliers, then seal tubing ends with solder.

—*Parry C. Yob, Fair Oaks, Calif.*



### Door spring holds tools

A screen-door spring on the workshop wall provides hanger space for a number of tools and is easy to mount on perforated hardboard. Stretch the spring slightly when putting it up. Most hand tools can be held under the spring, but some, such as pliers, can straddle it.

—*Ken Patterson, Regina, Sask.*



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CASE #136  
(In a continuing series)

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"I did it with one 5-minute exercise, twice daily, lying on my back—WITHOUT DIETING!"



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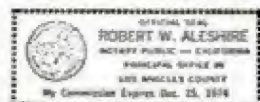
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AFTER  
5  
DAYS

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Before I started on the "5-Minute Body Shaper" Plan I weighed-in at 220 on November 1st. On that date my waist measured 36 inches. On November 5th, just five days later, I weighed 214 and my waist measured 33 inches. I'd



lost 6 pounds and 3 inches from my waist in just five days with no special dieting or exercise. Just the "5-Minute Body Shaper" Plan. KEN WALLER



Nov. 1st.  
Weight 220  
Waist 36"

"I'm usually in good shape, being a physical fitness buff, but when I moved from St. Louis to Los Angeles, I neglected my eating and fitness habits. I gained weight and softened up. I had no time to go to the gym, so I tried the '5-Minute Body Shaper' Plan. I was amazed at how fast I firmed, trimmed, tightened up my waist and got rid of extra body fat. It sure beats jogging and gym workouts for people who have little time to shape up! Thanks for your well thought out plan! Good luck with it!"

Nov. 5th  
Weight 214 (lost 6 lbs.)  
Waist 33" (lost 3 inches)

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Patent Pending. © Copyright Joe Weider, 1973

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IN CANADA: "5" Minute Body Shaper Plan, 2875 Bates Road, Montreal, Quebec



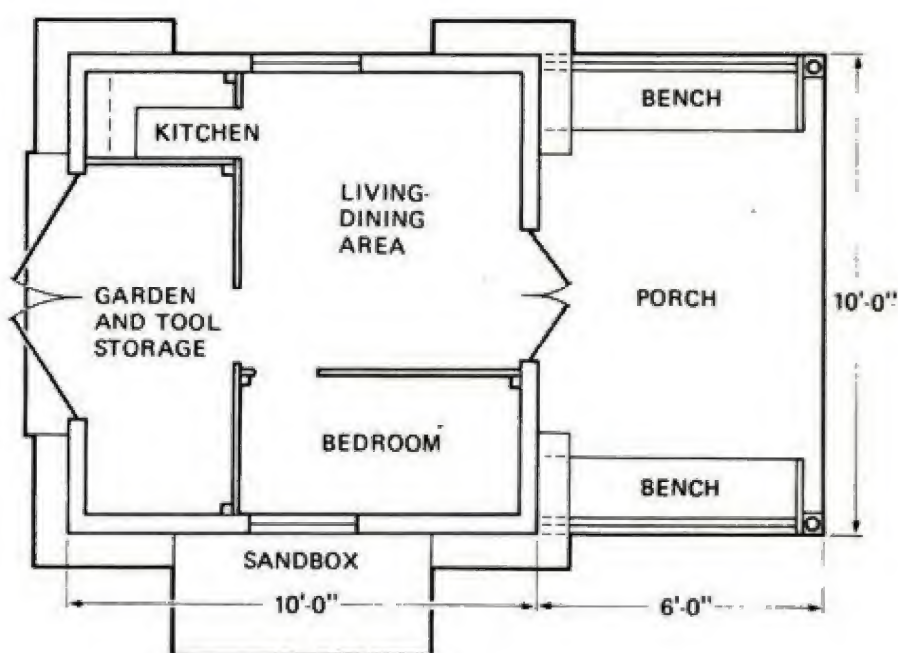






# Little beauties for tools and kids

Stick up a shed and neighbors may hate you. But build one of these cute storage buildings and they'll love you. So will your kids, since all three structures double as playhouses.



**The Storybook: Plan No. 1300**

What most homeowners need today more than anything else is more storage space—the garage just isn't big enough any more to store the countless items required to keep a home and yard shipshape and today's family on the go. Such bulky items as a riding mower, snowblower, patio furniture and bicycles leave little room for the family car.

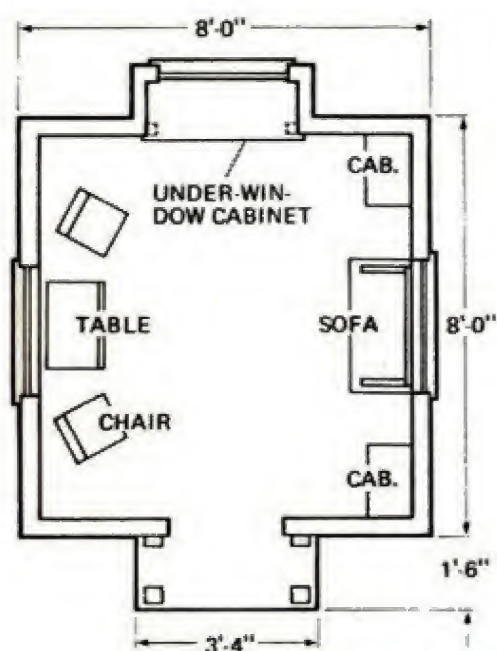
To lick the clutter problem, many have purchased back-yard storage buildings which are little more than sheet-metal sheds—eyesores to neighbors and frowned on by others in areas where local ordinances rule them out.

Looking more like a storybook cottage than a toolhouse, the compact structure shown at the left



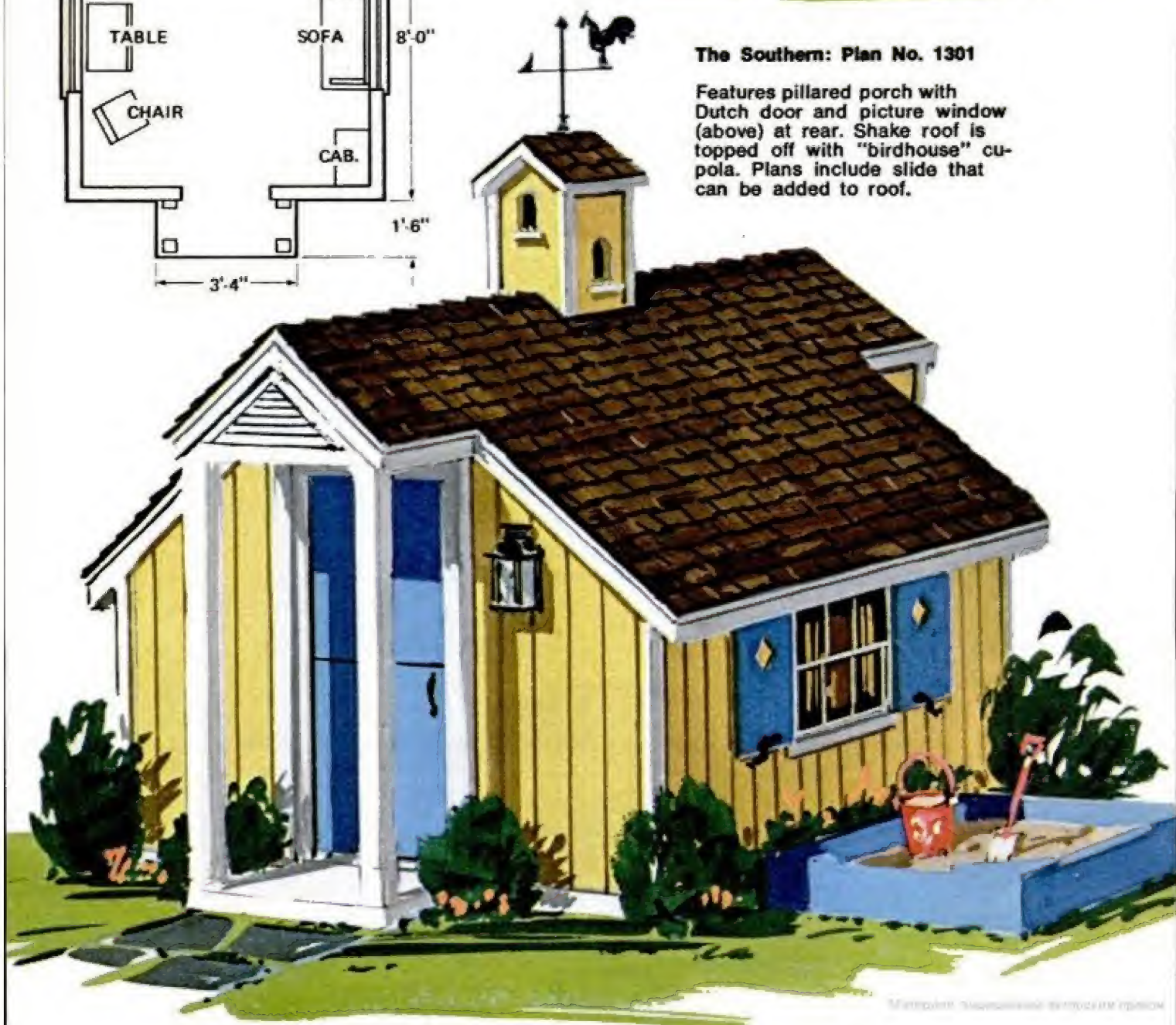
will add to the looks of any back yard and bring shrieks of delight from youngsters eager to move in and begin house-keeping. As the floor plan shows, wide barn-type doors and ramp at the rear make it easy to park a riding mower or garden tractor inside, and a walled-off section paneled with perforated hardboard will let you hang a lot of garden tools and other garage clutter.

If the playhouse feature is not needed in your case, and you are lucky enough not to have a storage problem, any one of the three little houses could make a worthwhile



**The Southern: Plan No. 1301**

Features pillared porch with Dutch door and picture window (above) at rear. Shake roof is topped off with "birdhouse" cupola. Plans include slide that can be added to roof.







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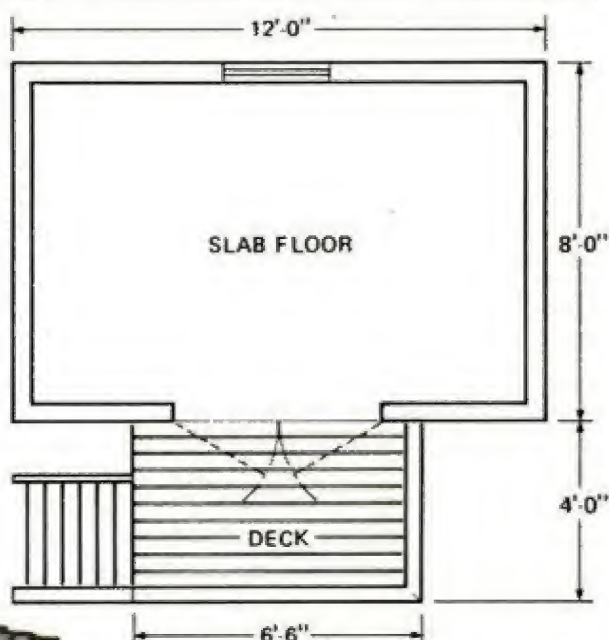


back-yard hideaway for a number of hobbies. Isolated from the din of TV and other family activities, such a house would make an ideal mini-office to escape to. As a place to tinker, it provides an isolated area where you can make all the noise and sawdust (and smells) you want without a complaint. A little house like this would be a great place for a sewing center, and in a pinch it could serve as an overnight guest house. It wouldn't take much to heat it with a plug-in electric heater, and a small in-the-wall airconditioner would make the building comfortable in hot weather.

As you see listed at the right, complete building plans are available for all three houses. You will need at least two sets, one to work from and a second for your local building department—most local ordinances require a building permit for outbuildings. When you get the permit, you'll be advised about the distance the structure must be built from property lines. ★★★

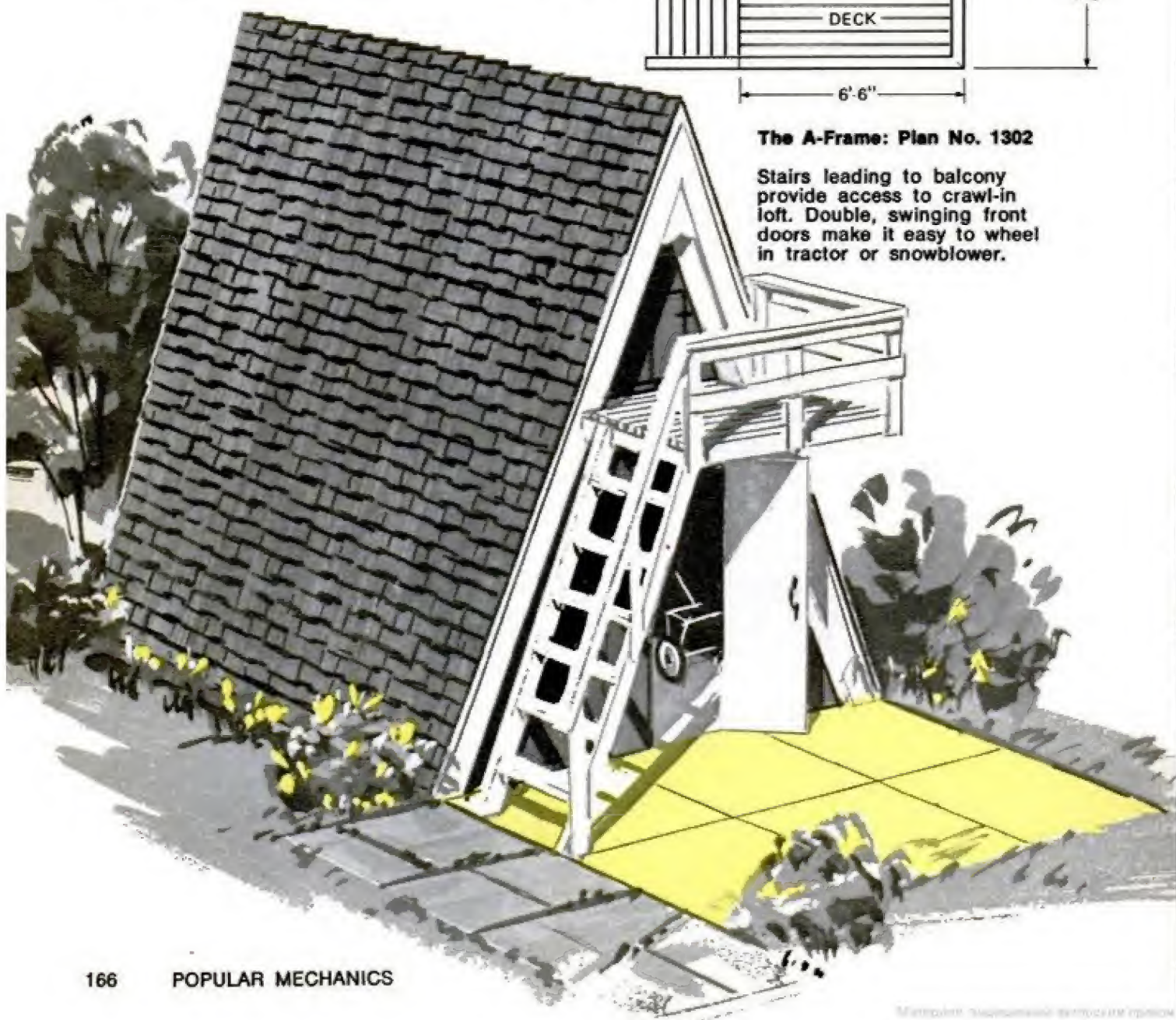
## How to order plans

You can purchase complete plans for any one of the three storage buildings featured in this article for \$3.95 for one set, \$5.49 for two sets. Each set measures 17 x 22 in. and includes complete instructions, building tips and materials list. Send orders to Storage Buildings, Popular Mechanics, Box 1014, Radio City, N.Y. 10019. Specify plan number and number of sets you want. Allow three weeks for mailing.



**The A-Frame: Plan No. 1302**

Stairs leading to balcony provide access to crawl-in loft. Double, swinging front doors make it easy to wheel in tractor or snowblower.





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# HINTS

## FROM READERS



### Steel-wool holder

An empty shotgun shell makes an ideal holder for steel wool for use in a shop or kitchen. Stuff the steel wool into the shell with a pencil or dowel to keep from getting metal splinters in your fingers. Cut away the sides of the shell to expose fresh steel wool as needed.

—Bob Brightman, Great Neck, N.Y.



### Inexpensive tape holder

A shop tape dispenser that will hold as many as eight rolls of different kinds of tape—masking, friction and cellophane, for example—is simply an inexpensive holder for toilet-paper rolls. A pair of scissors on a piece of string tied to the holder will always be handy for cutting tape.

—Ken Patterson, Regina, Sask.



### Safe toaster tongs

Sticking a metal fork into a toaster is dangerous. Tongs for safe toast retrieval can be quickly made from scraps of fancy woods. Use epoxy glue so tongs can be washed, and make blades diverge slightly by clamping with a hand screw at slight angle or by tapering two sides of the spacer block.—David Warren, Crystal Lake, Ill.



### Making special bolts

When a bolt is needed in a hurry, especially one with threads all the way to the head, it can be made from a piece of threaded rod, a nut and a section of nail used as a pin or rivet (or the nut could be soldered, brazed or welded on). For an emergency machine screw, saw a slot across the head.

—Walter E. Burton, Akron, Ohio.



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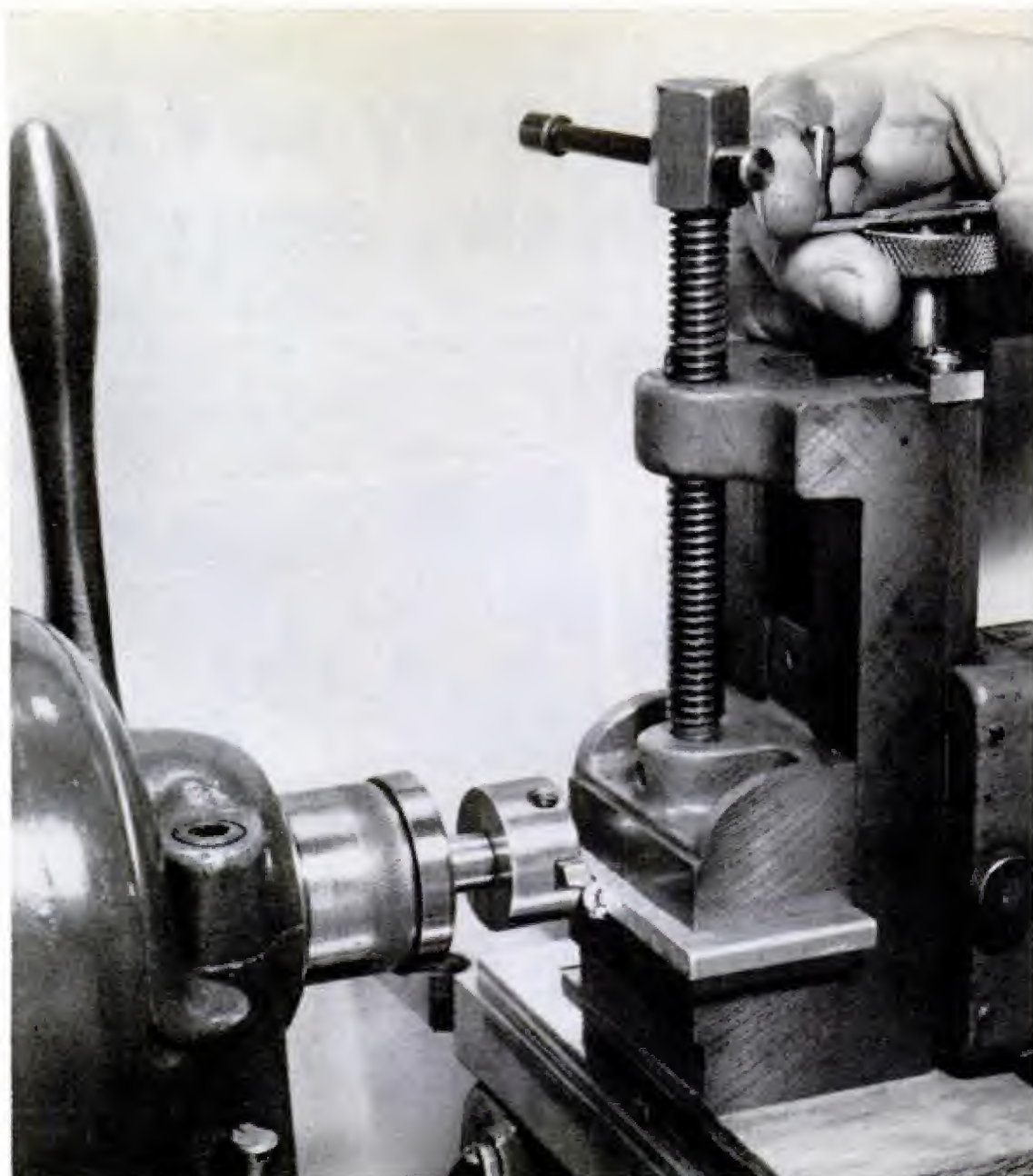
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Fly-cutter in 9-in. lathe is smoothing edge of 1/4-in. aluminum plate held in a milling vise.

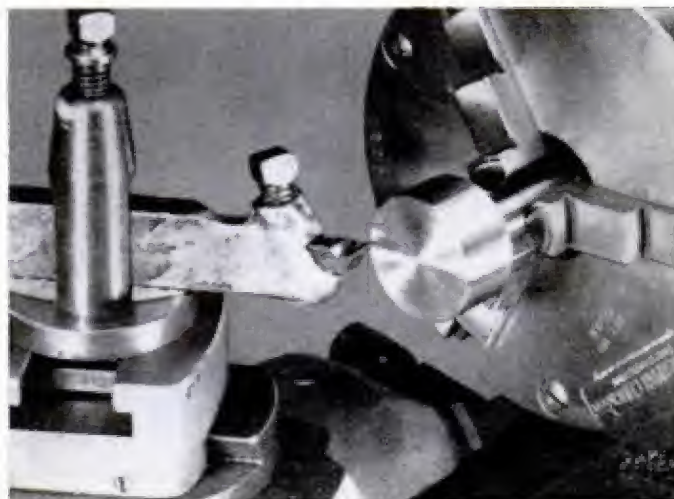
# Fly-cutter holder you can

by Walter E. Burton  
PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

**After the shank is turned (right), head of the holder is machined and faced in a three-jaw chuck.**

**Head is tilted to mill a sloping slot by placing two twist drills between shank (right center).**

**Cutter bit is locked in the holder by hollow-head setscrews turned with an Allen wrench (far right).**





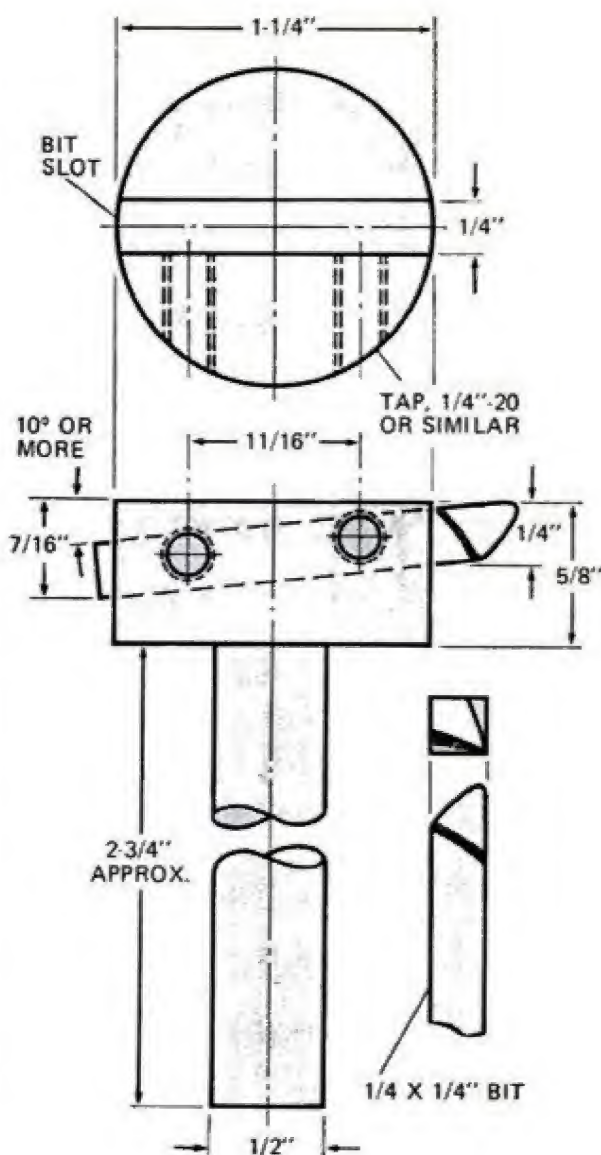
This simple shop-made fly cutter will do the work of an expensive multitoothed milling cutter. It's particularly useful for facing operations on workpieces that are held in a milling-attachment vise, and for certain boring jobs.

The tool consists of a standard  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4}$ -in. high-speed-steel lathe bit clamped in a sloping slot in a rotatable holder. The sloping slot positions the bit so its cutting tip is beyond the face of the holder. The tip is ground much like that of a conventional lathe bit.

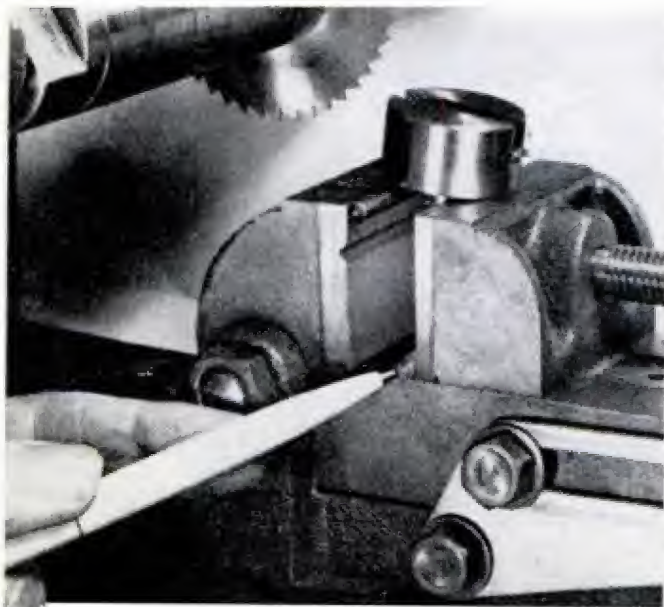
In a typical setup, the tool and holder are mounted in the headstock chuck and the workpiece is clamped in the vise of a carriage-mounted milling attachment. Because the work should be held as rigidly as possible, the overhanging vise is steadied by placing wooden blocks under it. Here the vise is run down against the top block, but not so tightly that the cross feed can't be used to move the workpiece past the cutter. Generally it is desirable to take rather shallow cuts and feed the work gradually and evenly, with the lathe at a slow or medium speed. Often the resulting surface is so smooth no further finishing is required.

The tool is made by turning down a length of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in. steel rod to form a  $\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ -in. shank with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in.-thick head, then cutting a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in.-wide slot ( $\frac{3}{16}$  in. deeper at one end than the other) across the face of the head. Two holes are drilled and tapped for setscrews that lock the cutting bit in its slot.

Since fly cutters can throw chips, it's wise to wear safety goggles or a face mask and to keep your shirt collar buttoned. ★ ★ ★



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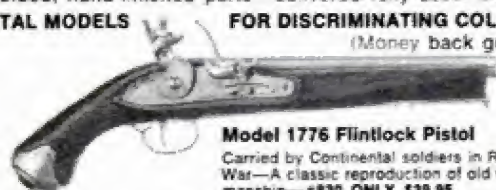
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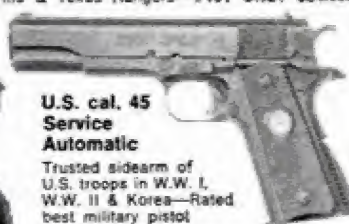
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# Penney's newest portable power saw

PM's shop editor put the saw through its paces on a recent project. Here are his findings.

by Harry Wicks  
WORKSHOP EDITOR

I've used Penney's newest portable circular saw during a number of shop sessions and can report that it has features that you'd find on saws selling for a lot more. All points considered—construction, power and comfort—it meets competition in the same price range head-on. The saw sells for \$50.

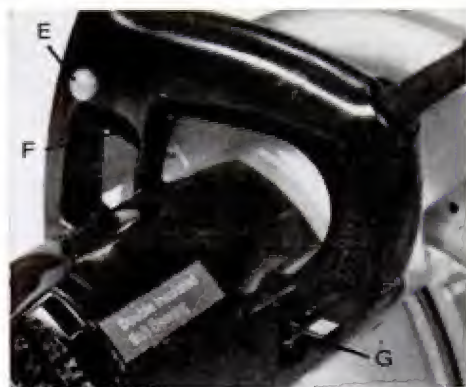
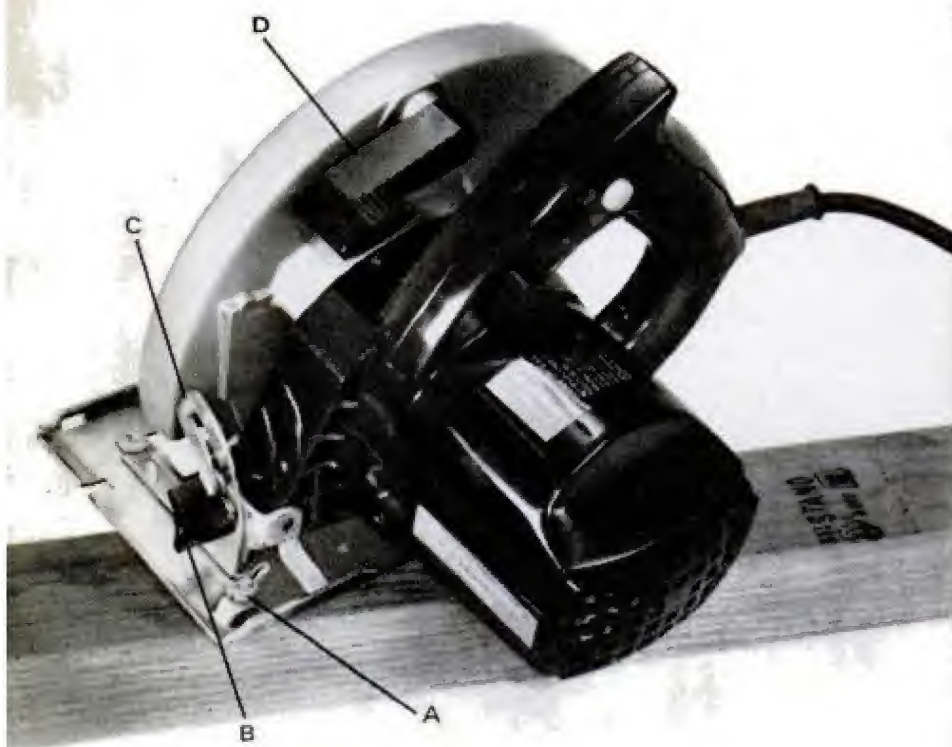
Labeled Model 4939 by J.C. Penney, the tool is double-insulated and is said to have a motor that will "withstand frequent overloads caused by continuous cutting." To check that claim, I put in a rip blade and did repetitive, nonstop cutting in 2-in. stock for 10 minutes. There was no overheating or slackening of the saw's cutting zip.

As far as I am concerned, there's some good news and some bad news about that on-off safety button (see E, photos below). First, the good news: The on-off button must be depressed before the trigger can be squeezed to start up the saw. That's good protection against accidental starts, such as when you happen to pick up the tool with your finger on the trigger. And when the trigger is released, it automatically disengages the switch—the trigger won't operate again until the button is depressed first.

Now, the bad news. The button is poorly located. As a right-hander, on continuous runs I found my thumb uncomfortable. Then the thought occurred to me that, for a

*(Please turn to page 178)*

PHOTOS BY ROBERT D. BORST



**Innovation** on the saw is the on-off switch (E) which must be pressed before trigger (F) can be squeezed. Other features shown in photos are: (A) wing screw for holding rip guide; (B) bevel locking knob; (C) bevel quadrant; (D) lift lever for blade guard (see text); (G) elevation locking knob.



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## PENNEY'S PORTABLE POWER SAW

(Continued from page 176)

left-handed person, the button would be downright unwieldy. To activate the trigger, a lefty has to work his hand into such a position that the palm side of his index finger (near the joint) would have to do the pressing of the on-off switch.

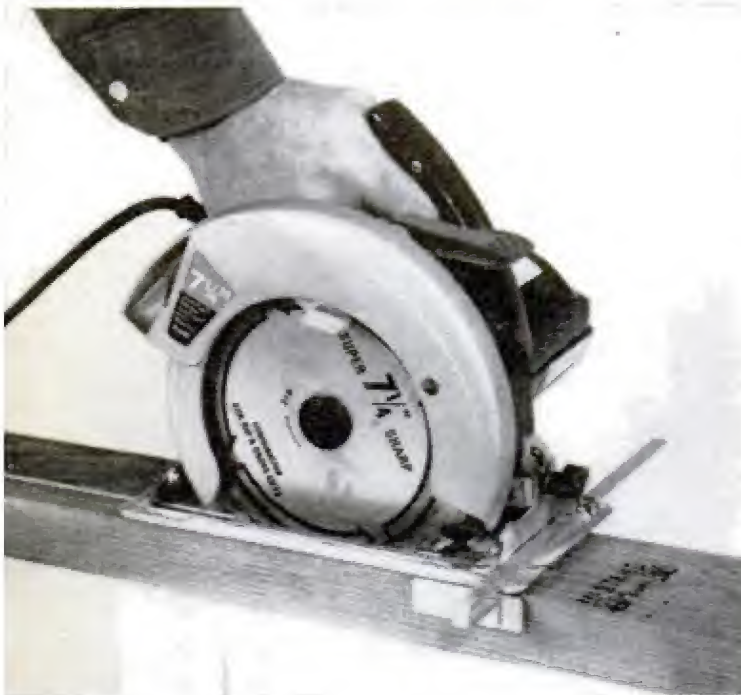
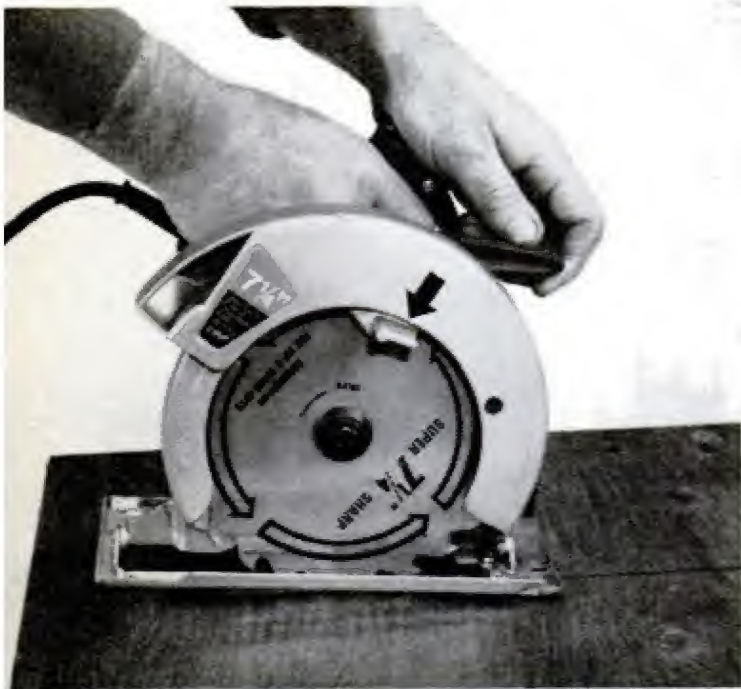
The safety switch is a good idea, especially for beginners, but I'd prefer to see it relocated on top of, and centered on, the handle.

Points I particularly liked: The blade guard lift (see D in photo on page 176) that's located between the handle and the upper blade guard. When making plunge cuts, it eliminates reaching across the saw to lift the blade guard out of the way so you can lower the spinning blade into the work. Because I'm accustomed to the lever location on my old saw, the new position took some getting used to. However, a first-saw buyer should feel comfortable with it immediately because he won't have the acquired habit (as I do) of reaching across. Even so, after a couple of cabinet-making sessions, I was completely accustomed to the different lever location.

I also liked the blade guard stop (see arrow, top photo, left). It's an added safety factor that prevents overlifting the blade guard and exposing an excessive amount of blade.

The sawdust ejector system is effective, too. It does a good job of spewing sawdust away from the cutting line—and the operator.

My conclusion: Given proper care, Penney's Model 4939 saw is a rugged tool that should give you years of home and shop use. ★★★



Lift lever (top photo) is good safety feature, allows user to raise blade guard when making plunge cut without reaching over the handle. Arrow indicates the blade-guard stop which limits blade cover travel so minimum amount of spinning blade is exposed. Lower photo shows rip guide in use. It provides straight cutting despite being held by the single wing screw.

### SPECIFICATIONS Model 4939 portable circular saw

Maximum blade diameter	7 1/4 in.
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Amp. rating at 115 v.	10
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Distributed by J.C. Penney, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019. At Penney Stores or by mail order through catalog.



## CARS THE RED BARON WOULD LOVE!

(Continued from page 141)

turning circle is only 37.5 feet and that's for a car with a wheelbase of 112.8 feet. (Overall length is 195.3 in.; width, 73.6 in. and height, 56.1 in.). This advantage of increased steering angle (4°) and smaller turning circle is just one virtue of the new front suspension (see technical drawing, page 140). The lower A-arm is conventional, but the upper arm links with an antiroll bar for variable upper-arm angle. Brake as hard as you want, the result is (sorry, Red Baron) no nosediving.

The front geometry also includes zero steering offset. The Fox goes negative in the steering or kingpin offset, but in a heavier car like the Mercedes (4000 pounds) even moving the offset to zero from the usual positive results in heavier steering. But since power steering is standard, little effort is needed. It may feel a bit heavy, but only if you're used to domestic power-steering units which make steering easy to the point of losing road feel—which should not be engineered out of any car.

Rear suspension is independent, of course, using semitrailing arms. An anti-roll bar is also used across the diagonal swing arms. Solid discs are used in rear, vented up front. The 25-gallon fuel tank is over the rear axle to minimize chance of rupture in a collision.

Fuel-tank location typifies the safety engineering in the new series. The roof takes a static loading of 10 tons and the passenger compartment is rigid compared to the easily deformable front and rear sections. Door-lock design incorporates a counterweight arrangement that acts to keep doors closed in a collision; rear doors have childproof locks; wiper design keeps them flat on windshield at any speed and rain troughs channel water away from windows.

Caught in a downpour, we found that the rain troughs along the windshield pillars work extremely well, but later while washing the car, we were surprised to find the metal edge at the bottom disappointingly sharp (the only thing we could find to fault). So if you chance to own a 450SE (and wash it yourself) watch it!

Watching me wash the 450SE, a neighbor asked, "What'll she do?" He meant mpg! We found the 4.5-liter, o.h.c., fuel-injected V8 good for 15 mpg on a steady high-speed trip. That's pretty economical flying. ★★★

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## NEW FUN WITH UNDERWATER PHOTOS

*(Continued from page 109)*

if the pictures aren't perfect by strict photographic standards.

In one respect, inexpensive cameras and housings are an advantage underwater because they present you with a minimum of controls to fuss with and things to remember to do. Swimming underwater requires enough concentration itself without having to bother with complicated settings and adjustments. Simple point-and-shoot cameras make underwater photography as easy as taking snapshots on dry land. Also, water is a great equalizer. Because it necessarily adds a murky, hazy quality to even the best marine photos, it can make an inexpensive lens look almost as good as a high-priced one.

**W**hile scuba gear is helpful, it is by no means a necessity. Most of my underwater shots were made on free dives within 5 to 30 feet of the surface—about as deep as the average sport diver is likely to go anyway. In fact, the shallower the water, the better off you'll be because you'll have more natural sunlight to work with. Underwater, light falls off rapidly the deeper you go, distant objects fade into oblivion and colors lose their brilliance. The best shots are made at depths of 5 to 15 feet and, where possible, against a light, sandy bottom. While clear, bright tropical waters are ideal, you can still have plenty of fun shooting in small lakes, ponds, even swimming pools. If there aren't any interesting natural objects to photograph underwater, try shooting action shots of other divers. Pretty girls in colorful bikini suits are—for obvious reasons—good subjects and are my own personal choice. A dive mask is a must for seeing clearly underwater, and a snorkel is useful for shooting downward while floating lazily on the surface.

Most housings can be fitted with inexpensive underwater flashguns. They're easy to use and a big help on most shots. As a general rule, use flash on dull days, in dark waters and at any time you're shooting below about five feet. Even in bright sunlight, flash is useful for adding front fill on backlit subjects and for bringing out more sparkle and brilliance in colors. On cameras designed to take flashcubes, a clever little adapter plugs into the flashcube socket to fire the flash externally. Be sure to pick the right housing for your particular camera—

there's an important difference. X-type Instamatics that are triggered mechanically rather than electrically require a separate power supply built into the housing; models that contain their own flash batteries do not.

If your camera has automatic electric-eye exposure control, there's another point to remember. Plugging in a flashcube, or in this case the adapter, overrides the electric-eye system on such cameras. If you plan to shoot without flash, be sure *not* to connect the adapter when inserting the camera in the housing. Otherwise, you'll be set for flash, the electric eye will be inoperative and you'll get badly underexposed pictures.

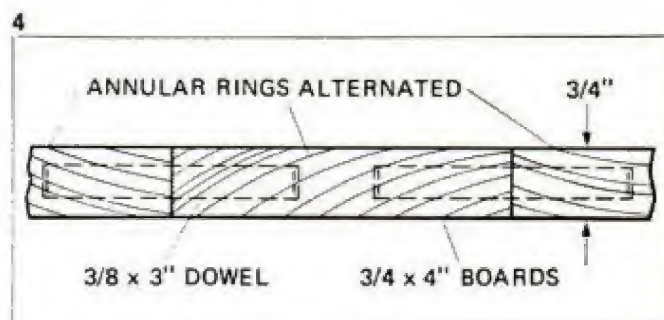
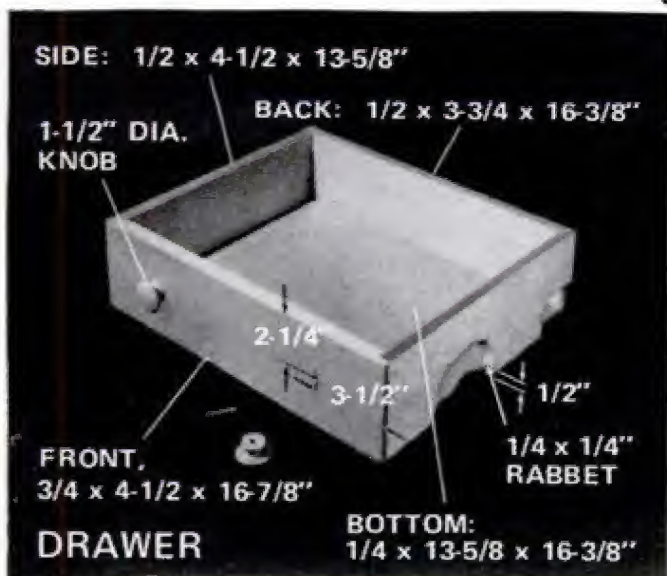
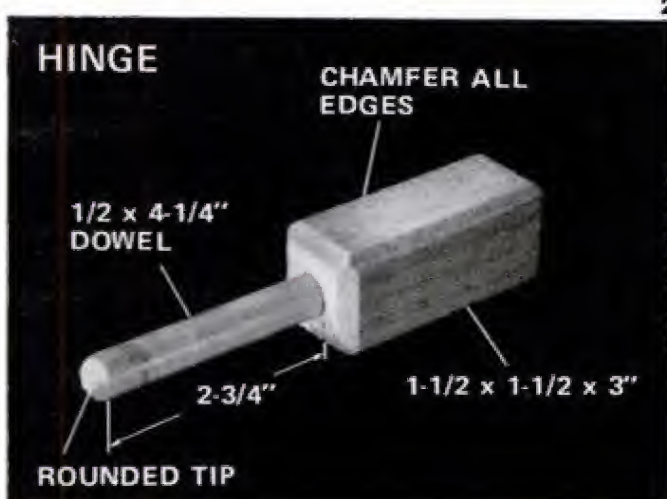
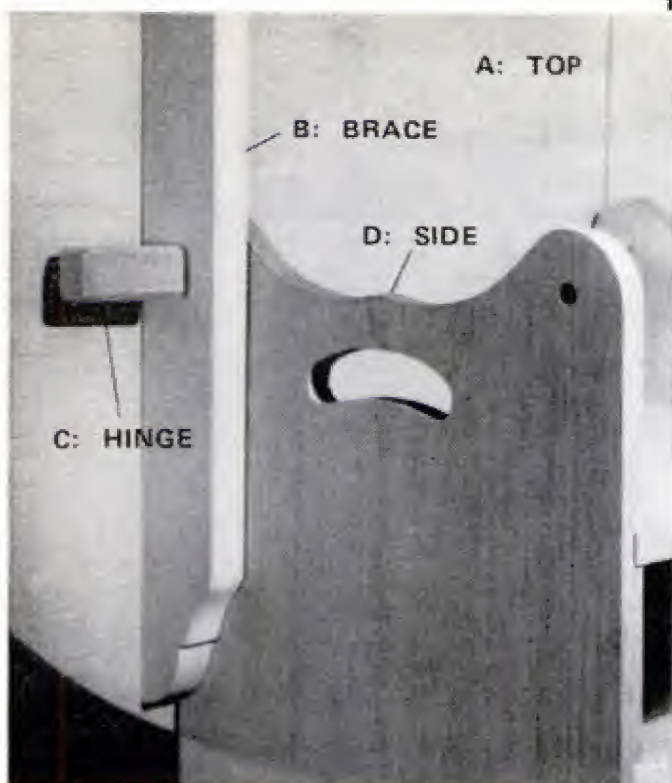
**F**or maximum clarity and detail, shoot as close as possible, being careful, though, not to exceed the usual two-foot minimum focusing distance. The best shots are made at 4 to 6 feet, with 8 to 10 feet about maximum. Beyond that, everything blurs into nothingness. If your camera has a close-up setting, as most Instamatics do, be sure to reset this after each shot as it usually returns automatically to the long-distance infinity setting if you don't. Since it's difficult to use the camera's regular viewfinder underwater, some form of external viewfinder is helpful. Clip-on sportsfinders are available for most housings, but can fool you because they usually show more area than the camera actually takes in. Before going underwater, check the camera's viewfinder against the sportsfinder's frame so you can judge how much picture area you're really getting. Another aid is the newer optical type of viewfinder sold by Seacor. Though more expensive, it's much more accurate than the open-type sportsfinder and can be fitted with interchangeable front grids to match the finder's viewing area to the camera's picture-taking area.

For catalogs, prices and additional information on underwater housings and accessories, write the following manufacturers: Ikelite Underwater Systems, 3303 North Illinois St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46208; Edmund Scientific Co., 150 Edscorp Building, Barrington, N.J. 08007; Seacor, Inc., Box 22126, San Diego, Calif. 92122; Upsi Underwater Photographic Scientific Inventions, Inc., Box 26, Marathon, Fla. 33050; Oceanic Products, 814 Castro St., San Leandro, Calif. 94577; Eumig, Inc., Lake Success Business Park, 225 Community Dr., Great Neck, N.Y. 11020. ★ ★ ★



# EARLY AMERICAN HUTCH-TABLE

(Continued from page 99)



receive the drawer bottom. And the sides are let into an edge-rabbet on the drawer front. Notice that the drawer back is cut narrower than the sides. This method simplifies construction; the back simply fits into edge-rabbets on the sides, and the bottom is attached by driving brads up through the bottom into the back. Lay out for the drawer knobs and drill these holes to suit the knob screws.

**Finishing the piece.** When satisfied that the piece is sanded smooth, give it a thorough dusting. Next, apply a honey-tone pine stain and after 10 to 15 minutes, depending upon desired shade-depth, wipe off the excess stain and allow the piece to dry overnight. Apply a wash-coat of shellac to seal the wood and allow to dry.

My preferred finish is McCloskey's egg-shell, or satin, Heirloom finish. It's a varnish but it sets rather quickly, thus diminishing the amount of dust that settles on the surface. Apply at least two coats at least 24 hours apart and buff lightly with 00-grade steel wool between coats. Let the piece "cure" for four to six weeks; after that, if desired, it can be rubbed with paste wax. ★★★

**1. Tabletop pivots on pair of "hinges."** When top is down, second pair is used at front to securely lock the top in place.

**2. The required four hinge-pins** are constructed alike. All pins (dowels) should fit snugly in holes in braces and sides.

**3. Drawer construction** is basic; bottom is let-into sides and front. To affix back, use 4d finishing nails up through bottom.

**4. Narrow boards** are edge-glued and doweled to make up pieces for sides, shelves (E) and top. To lessen chance of warpage, annular rings should be alternated as shown.



## KARTING

*(Continued from page 71)*

cently came within seven seconds of Mark Donohue's NASCAR AMC lap time, and the kart had the added handicaps of no transmission and a chicane to get through. The chicane was a temporary zigzag deliberately set up with pylons in a fast part of the circuit to slow the karts.

To help explain this recent upswing in karting popularity, let's go back a moment to the good old days. Karters usually credit Art Ingels with developing the first true racing go-kart in 1955, although back-yard putt-putts had been around since the dawn of autodom. Art Ingels worked at that time for Frank Kurtis in Glendale, Calif., constructing Indy cars and midgets.

When McCulloch dumped thousands of 7.5-c.i.d., two-stroke lawnmower engines on the market in 1955, you could pick one up for \$14. Art Ingels did just that, and he stuck it on the back of a rectangular pipe-work frame. After attaching four industrial wheels, a seatback, some rudimentary brakes, and a steering wheel, he used to amuse the Kurtis Kraft crew by scooting around the parking lot like a dog with his tail on fire. People watching thought it looked like fun, so they built karts, too, or had Art do it for them. Within a few months, the go-kart rage had spread across the country to the East Coast and beyond. *Life Magazine* ran pictures of Gen. Curtis LeMay piloting a go-kart, and suddenly every kid and his dad (or vice-versa) had to have one.

Kart manufacturing companies sprang up overnight and turned out all types on Detroit-style production lines. Karters formed local clubs, and from these grew the International Kart Federation (IKF) which today remains the hobby's backbone.

Then around 1965, interest in karting evaporated almost as quickly as it had come. A few diehards hung on, though, and the IKF survived. Today the IKF claims over 6000 members and a roster that's growing at a healthy rate. Membership is truly international, with all 50 states plus England, Germany, Scandinavia, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines and other nations represented.

The IKF sanctions races, obtains insurance, and acts as the sport's rule-making body. Broadly speaking, go-kart racing is of two types—sprint and enduro. Sprint

races are run on short, tight, twisty tracks. These tracks average about half a mile around, and races are run by heats or laps—three 8 to 10-lap heats for each class, with a motocross points system. Because of the tightness of these tracks, sprint karts are geared for acceleration and hit 60 to 80 mph tops.

Enduros, on the other hand, are run by the hour—usually one-hour events, sometimes two. As Tom Bates says, enduros usually borrow sports-car race courses. Here, karts are of the laydown type. They don't accelerate nearly so quickly as the sprints, but their top speed is about twice as high. In enduros, the main effort is to make the engines stay together at those fantastic rpms (up to 13,000) for the specified times.

Almost all modern karts use two-stroke engines. Today's most popular kart engines are being imported from Italy, and Italian two-strokes are conceded to be better than anything available elsewhere.

The Komet K-88 and B-Bomb, made in Milan, dominate serious karting competition. These are 6.1-cu.-in. (100-cc) and 8.25-cu.-in. (135.22-cc) units respectively, and most IKF classes specify these displacements or their doubles (for twin-engine classes) as maximums.

Before the Komets came along, McCulloch two-strokes dominated. These McCullochs used (and still use) reed valves. The Komets, on the other hand, use rotary valves—discs with triangular holes. The rotary-valve engines proved so superior in output and flexibility that the IKF had to make special classes for them. Today competition is divided into reed-valve and rotary-valve classes. Trouble is, they're not called simply reed and rotary classes. They're called "reed" and "stock-appearing" and "open." "Stock-appearing" means the Italian engines have to look on the outside just as they did when they emerged from their shipping boxes. There are also "box-stock" classes for reeds. Adding to this confusion, the IKF lists 14 competition classes in sprint racing and 14 more for enduros.

Two-stroke technology is so far advanced in karts that even the Japanese motorcycle industry is taking kart engines apart to see how the karters do it. When the Japanese bike makers were just discovering 5-port engines, karters were already into 10-ports;

*(Please turn to page 184)*



# MAN'S WORK!



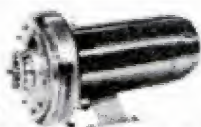
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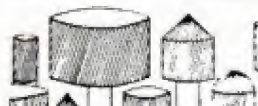
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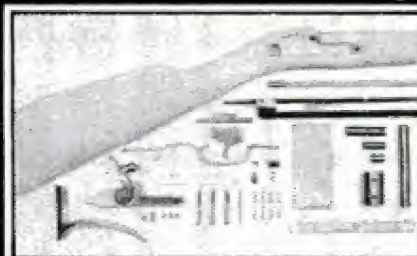
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## KARTING

(Continued from page 182)

now they're up to 12. Two-strokes, of course, have no poppet valves; in fact there are only seven moving parts in the typical one-lung kart engine. Output in some of the Komets is right at 3 to 4 horses per cube.

Classes exist for stock, stock-appearing, and modified engines. The IKF also sets the ages of drivers in various classes so kids aren't competing with adults. It also specifies weight limits and stages a series of Grand National events as in hot rodding, stock-car racing, and so forth. For 1971 and 1972, the Grand National Champion was Kathey Hartman.

**W**hat kind of people go into karting? Does it always start with an interest by the kids, which then turns into adult fever? Tom Bates of the IKF's *Karter News* sees it this way:

"It is a family sport, and we have a tremendous cross section participating—doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs, blue-collar, white-collar, male and female, all ages from 8 on up. And it's a participant sport; not so much a spectator sport. So the people you see watching are usually friends or family. It's not uncommon to see the kids race in one event, then Mom takes the kart for another race, and finally Dad drives it in a third."

We asked Tom what sort of investment a family would have to make to be competitive.

"All-new equipment, maybe \$1000 for a single-engined job or \$1600 for one with twin engines. If you're in it for pure fun, you can get by for half that. But if you're really into it, \$2000 for a Hartman Blue Streak, say, with one of Kathey Hartman's engines. That's sort of the Ferrari of karting. Then if your ability matches the kart's capability, you're going to win races. You get more kicks for less money in karting, though, than in practically any other type of auto racing around. A lot of frustrated Walter Mitty sports-car drivers go into karting, especially into FKE. They wear the Nomex flameproof suits and Bell Star helmets and driving gloves—that sort of things. I guess I'm one of them myself!"

**W**hat does the future hold for karting? Will it go commercial the way hot rodding and sports-car racing have? Or will

it stick with the grass roots and family fun?

"It probably won't go commercial in a big way, because it doesn't lend itself to becoming a big-time spectator sport. But it's not strictly amateur either. Even today a few kart manufacturers and several dealers field racing teams. These teams dominate competition, especially in enduro racing, mostly because they can spend more time in preparing their vehicles than can families or private individuals.

"As for big prizes and fat purses, there aren't any. Karters race mostly for fun and glory. Only trophies are given even at Grand National events. Manufacturers and dealers do put up merchandise, true, and sometimes participants get together a pot to make things a little more interesting. One group that races together regularly in B-Limited drops \$5 each into the pot. The kart that's leading at the end of the first lap picks it up. It gets pretty hairy on that first lap.

Readers interested in more information on karting should write the International Kart Federation, 733 Edna Pl., Covina, Calif. 91732. This year's IKF Enduro Grand Nationals, by the way, are to be held at Ontario Motor Speedway in Southern California over the July 4 weekend, so if you want to see the best in karting action, be there!

★★★

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## GUNS TOO SLICK TO SHOOT

(Continued from page 130)

special endorsed models have the double pleasure of contributing to a worthwhile cause as well as gaining a handsome gun.

One most-sought-after Winchester is the special presentation model of the Buffalo Bill rifle. The first 300, given to the association by Winchester, went to individuals who donated \$1000 to the museum. The 300 series has a gold-plated hammer, trigger, loading gate, borearm tip and butt plate.

Marlin has issued three lever-action commemoratives—the 39 Century Ltd., 39 Article II and the 336C Zane Grey Century. Issued to honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous western author in 1972, the 336C was restricted to 10,000 units and should be one of the better investments for collectors.

Harrington & Richardson's Little Big Horn Carbine commemorates the famous battle between the 7th Cavalry and the Sioux. The replica of the 1871 U.S. Springfield Officer's Model is a faithful copy of the trap door, single-shot .45-70 black powder carbine issued to cavalry troopers from 1871 to 1890. Each Little Big Horn model

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comes with a 128-page hard-covered book describing the part the carbines played in the famous battle. Reproduction was limited to 5000 units, and the price is \$200.

These are just an introduction to commemoratives being issued regularly. Every month or so in the pages of this magazine you will note announcements of new models that renew and honor highlights of our history. And once you start collecting, you are hooked for more than life, for these guns quickly become family heirlooms. As new issues are offered, most dealers will cooperate with you if you want to order specific serial numbers, matched pairs in different calibers or any other sequences.

Collectors can also consider the black-powder pleasures of muzzle-loading replicas such as those from the Navy Arms Co., or percussion revolvers like Sturm, Ruger's notable Old Army model. Remarkably detailed nonfiring Replica Models now on the market make collecting possible in spite of restrictive local laws, and even old reprint catalogs are offered by the Personal Firearms Record Book Co.

As your gun collection grows, its value as an attractive display will increase—and so will the money you have invested. ★★★



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(Continued on next page)



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